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THURSDAY 9 JANUARY 1997

WEATHER: Cold everywhere

(IR45p) 40p



NEW YEAR: NEW YOU Working the room at parties



EDUCATION+ A case of oversubscription?
20-page pull-out
packed with appointments

Can anyone bear the strain of being a manager today?

Howard Wilkinson, the FA's technical director and former Leeds manager, on the pressures that caused Keegan to quit Newcastle

The last time I saw Kevin Keegan on television I thought he looked extremely ill. Compared with the day nearly five years ago when he became manager of Newcastle United, he appeared to have aged by at least 15 years.

It came as no surprise to me yesterday when he resigned. I have increas-ingly sensed in his eyes, in his expressions and in his voice the signals of the stresses he has started to feel.

Managers have always been under pressure to succeed - and always will be but what is different today is the which you have no control. While you have a direct influence on buying and selling players and coaching your team, there is nothing you can do about what reporters write, what television and radio commentators say, and what fans

One of the great problems is the immediacy of it all. No sooner has the final whistle gone than you are asked to give your views on radio, television and in the press. Then there are the radio and television phone-ins, with fans giving their instant judgements.

I do not think I am alone in detecting a significant rise in the impatience and intolerance of many supporters. You see it in their faces on your way to games from your privileged position in the team hus. The banter has always been there, hut certainly as recently as 10 years ago it was good-natured.

Today you are exposed to gestures and words of absolute hatred and vilification. I have seen parents mouthing obscenities in front of their own seven- and eightyear-old children that would cause any decent parent to switch off were it on radio or television.

My way of coping was to concentrate solely on those things over which I had control and blank my mind to all the matters over which I had no influence.

In our championship year at Leeds, for instance, I remember driving hack of control: they controlled the ball at all from a reserve match whilst Manches-

The brains of pregnant women appear

to shrink during late pregnancy, ac-

ording to research which offers an ex-

somen complain of before and after giv-

ing hirth. The doctors at the Royal Post-

Anita Holdcroft, the anaesthetist in

tharge of the study, said poor concen-

tration, lack of co-ordination, and mem-

bry problems in late pregnancy may be inked to the changes in hrain size she

A set of three-dimensional images of

the brains of 10 healthy women were tak-

on, using magnetic resonance imaging

(MRI) in late pregnancy, six to eight

According to a report in New Scien-

and col-

reagues found that as the woman's body

Weeks after delivery, and then up to six

and her colleagues observed.

months later.

Liz Hunt Health Editor



ter United were playing at West Ham in a game crucial to the title race. I turned the radio off. I could have listened to the match commentary, but to me there was no point. There was nothing I could do to influence the outcome and I knew that I would have to deal with whatever the consequences were the following day by working with my own

Perhaps it is an advantage to have heen a player who lacked outstanding ability. As players, Kenny Dalglish and Kevin Keegan generally went from one success to another. Their ability was supreme. Failure was something they rarely encountered and had little experience of dealing with. In contrast, as I get older it seems to me that the most important abilities to develop are deal-

ing with crincism and failure. Both Kevin and Kenny were masters times and because of their ahility

Dalglish tipped

Kenny Dalglish, the former Liverpool and Blackhum Rovers manager, is expected to succeed Kevin Keegan as the manager of Newcastle. Keegan resigned yesterday, saying he had taken the club as far as he could. Pages 22 and 24

generally managed to control not only their team hut also the game. Control of your own destiny is largely the

prerogative of the good player.

As a manager you quickly realise that
the opposite is the case: that you must learn to cope with things very much out

of your control. Loneliness is a problem. You alone have to pick the team and are responsible for its performance. In your attempts to preserve a positive influence over your players you may frequently vent your frustration on those nearest

David Divine, who was one of the lead-

ing figures in social work in Britain for

more than a decade, has been arrested

and charged by police investigating al-

legations of abuse at a children's home

Mr Divine, aged 43, is one of three people arrested following allegations of

physical abuse at a children's home in

Edinhurgh 20 years ago.

Mr Divine was one of the youngest heads of social services in the UK when

he was appointed director of social ser-

vices in the north-west London borough

of Brent. He subsequently became the

assistant director of the Central Coun-

cil for the Education and Training of

Social Workers which sets standards for

He has also advised Government

committees on social work. He worked

in Tower Hamlets and Hackney, east

London, and made frequent appear-

ances on TV in the late Seventies and

Eighties. He was social services direc-

tor in Brent at a time when same-race

adoption became a prominent issue,

He was charged earlier this week by

particularly in London.

There are measures we could take to alleviate these pressures, but I think you are either the sort of person who copes or you are not. It would help if we played fewer matches. Managers, like players. need time between games both to wind down and to get back up for the next

Being more specific about the role of the manager might also help. I am convinced that the manager's job at the big-ger clubs should increasingly be about simply preparing the first team for matches. Other people must be given responsibility for signing players, negotiaung contracts, and, where possible, dealing with the outside world.

Will it change? I do not think so. Mon-cy is pouring into the game more quickly than it can be dealt with. Given these rewards, the fear of failure intensifies to an illogical point. We should all remember that every time someone wins, someone else must lose.

months before moving to London.

Yeltsin in hospital Russian President Boris Yeltsin. 65, who had a quintuple heart by-pass two months ago, has gone into hospital after developing the first signs of pneu-Pregnancy makes Social work guru

Branson may fly again Richard Branson has not ruled out another attempt to fly around the world after he and two friends survived a terrifying descent when their balloon maifunctioned less than 24 after tak-

police following a lengthy investigation. The charges relate to alleged physical The Broadsheet abuse at one of his first jobs in social services and relate to allegations of abuse at the Edinburgh children's home where, it is understood, he worked for 18 Detectives had already arrested two other men in connections with allegations of physical abuse. Police confirmed yesterday that a third person had been arrested hut declined to identify Mr Divine, who now works as an independent consultant and whose home is in Walthamstow, north-east London, was not available for comment

The arrests by police in Edinburgh followed a major police investigation into allegations of abuse at the home. It is understood that more than 200

former residents of the home have been seen by a special team of 20 detectives set up to probe the allegations. Detectives have been working for some months on the investigation and Mr Divinc was charged earlier this

Blair backs away from 50p tax rate

Chief Political Correspondent

abour last night appeared to be moving away from a new 50p top rate of tax after Tony Blair launched Lahour's election campaign with a promise to the voters that "there is nothing swept under the carpet or concealed" about Labour's tax and spending pledges.
Giving the strongest hint so

far that he would ditch plans for a new top rate of iax, the Labour leader used the launch of a pre-election campaign document setting out Labour's five priorities on education, health, obs, crime and the economy, to defuse the Tories' tax bombshell.

Mr Blair urged John Major, who yesterday flew to India, to stop "faffing about" by calling an early general election. "Let t happen. Let's get on with it. Stop all this waiting around."

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, who wanted a 50p op rate for those earning over £100,000, is planning to set out Labour's tax plans in detail in a series of four speeches in the

next few weeks.-It is expected that he will propose changes to thresholds, with more low paid being takout his plans on public expenditure on 20 January. He is unlikely to rule out any tax rises which might he necessary after the election, but it appears that Labour will be able to say, like the Tories in 1992, they have no plans to raise personal taxation.

Mr Blair has been keen to avoid Labour becoming vul-nerable to a repeat of the Tory tax "bombshell" from the 1992

election. He has been surprised by the vehemence of some Shadow Cahinet colleagues who argued for the lax option to be left open. Some fear an incoming Lahour government may find it inherits Tory spend-

ing figures that do not add up. Senior Labour sources insisted that final decisions about

A small price Labour was believed to be planning a new top rate of 50p

in the £ for those earning ove £100,000 a year. This would have affected 120,000 tax payers. Russ Stanfield, estate planning partner at Price Wa terhouse, sald: "A lot of prac-titioners would say that the difference in the total amount of tax paid by this particular group is fairly minimal." Those likely to have been hit by a 50p rate would have included opinion-formers and influential voices such as company di-rectors, senior media figures, people in the City, top lawyers, and advertising executives.

the top rate had not been taken. But the Labour leader set the tone yesterday by launching en out of tax. Mr Brown will set Britain into the Future, giving a cast-iron pledge that Labour's key spending promises would be self-financed.

Flanked by Mr Brown, John Prescott, Robin Cook and Margaret Beckett, Mr Blair said: The Tory case is if you go through our programme there are all these spending commitments and Lahour is being evasive. No. There is not a single spending commitment here

anywhere in our proposals that requires increases in personal taxes. So the whole Tory case is

The Lahour leader added: Nothing in this programme implies rising personal taxation. We can do it within existing spending limits. We can make a difference to education, health and welfare by a different choice of priorities.

Brushing aside the Tories presidential-style campaign around Mr Major, Mr Blair said: "I don't give a damn about any of that ... It's not about who runs the most presidential-style press conference. It's about what we can do for Britain."

He took a sideswipe at Mr Major's leadership. In uncertain times. Britain cannot afford an uncertain Prime Minister. And Britain cannot afford as its Government a party incapable of heing led."

In his foreword to the document, Mr Blair also rejected the Tory campaign about "new danger" by insisting that Labour had changed. "New Labour's mission is to build a coalioon of support for the radical centre that addresses the future and is not stuck in the hattles of the

terests of the many not the few. Although the language of "coalitions" may alarm Labour traditionalists, Mr Blair told the press conference that he was not negotiating a pact with the Liberal Democrats, with whom Labour has been consulting on a joint package of constinitional reforms. "I have no de-

sire for pacts, deals, fixes or anything else," he said. Dunald Macintyre, page 15

Will you help save

Jenny's life tonight?

Jenny sleeps in a shop doorway - but not to queue

lenny has learned to cope with dirt, hunger and illness

but harsh weather could finish her off. Last winter, in

London alone, 74 people perished while sleeping rough. You can help Jenny - and hundreds like her - make it through winter. Send £25 to Crisis today. We'll use it

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Yes, I'll keep homeless people warm:

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£25 is a small price to pay to save a human life. But it

for the sales. She's there because she's homeless.

All she wants this winter is to survive - hut without



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Crisis, PO Box 13295, Freepost EDO3791, London E1 1BR Details have been changed to protect identity.

and physiology returned to the non-pregmant state, their hrains increased in size.

It is possible that their brains were swelling from a normal state but this is unlikely, Dr Holdcroft told a meeting of the Physiological Society in Sheffield earlier this month.

your brain shrink on abuse charge

Roger Dobson

social workers.

The findings follow a study of women who suffer very high-blood pressure -pre-eclampsia - in which a build-up of lanation for cognitive problems some fluid causes swelling, potentially fatal seizures can follow. "We assumed that graduate Medical School in London their brains would also swell but last year found that il can take up to six months we found that they shrink," Dr Holdcroft for the women's brains to regain their said. When the study was extended to healthy women, it was found that brain shrinkage appeared to he a normal fea-

ture of pregnancy. The investigators believe that the brain changes are more likely to be the result of changes in the volume of individual cells rather than in the quantity of hrain cells. Dr Holdcroft told the magazine. In addition, the team found that the piruitary gland, which lies at the base of the hrain, showed the opposite effect increasing in size during pregnancy, when it is responsible for producing reproductive hormones - and then diminishing in size in the months after

Leading article, page 13

yesterday.

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Nurses to escape death claim **Saudis**

Steve Boggan

The two British nurses accused of murder in Saudi Arabia will not be bebeaded even if found guilty of killing their colleague, Yvonne Gilford, according to senior Saudi officials.

Two Saudi diplomatic sources have separately told The Independent that Lucille McLauchlan, 31, and Deborah Parry, 41, are unlikely to be given the death penalty. Even if they were it would not be carried out while there was a chance that the victim's family could be persuaded to ask for

mercy.
Under Saudi law, the victim's family may demand the death penalty or grant mercy, sometimes in return for "blood money" amounting to about £20,000. Miss Gilford's family in Australia have made it clear that they are in no mood to ask for mercy, but one Saudi diplomat told The Independent: "There are people on death row in Saudi who have been there for years while attempts are made to persuade the families of their victims to call for mercy. In this case, there would be no hurry. No-one wants to see these womeo executed." Both sources said independently that Saudi Arabia was in no burry to provide a lurid side-show for the

Despite their anxiousness to be seen to be fair and merciful. Saudi officials say they are against the nurses. Miss Gilford was found beaten, stabbed and smothered in her room at the King Fahd Military Medical Centre in Dhahran before Christmas. The Saudis allege that the British women subsequently withdrew money from

ber bank account. It quickly emerged that Miss Parry and Miss McLauchlan had made confessions, although colleagues said they had been made under duress and they were later withdrawn.



Star turn: The actress Goldie Hawn opening the January sale yesterday at Harrods, London

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

New charge over rail sale

Christian Wolman Westminster Correspondent

The rail privatisation process bas again been hit by sleaze almanagement buy-out team bidding for a rail franchise was found to bave used inside information not available to its ri-

Confidential documents from the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising, reveal that the team, Northstar Pennine Ltd. which is bidding for Regional Railways North East and seeking £1bn of public funds over the next seven years, used financial information in prepar-

ing their offer which was three

The revelations place a question mark over the role of management teams in the franchising process which is being carried through in great haste sbown tonight, says a passenger to ensure all 25 rail lines are in rail tranchising official asked the private sector hefore the

Last year, one of the first franchises, LTS, was won by a of ticketing fraud. So far, 18 franchises bave

election.

management huy-out team able to other hidders". which was then harred because

bidders.

The Labour MP Hugh Bayley, bas called for the franaround £1.05bn over the next
bidders gional Railways North East is out. But these doct gest that the process to be re-run.

Seven years.

Solution and the successful bidder will get based, said: "The management around £1.05bn over the next buy-out team used commercial information which, in a clear

Last night, the first seven years.

Minutes of a meeting beld io late October and leaked to a regional BBC television series Close Up North, due to be Northstar Pennine "why they had used Period 6 projections to prepare their bid documentation when this was not avail-

The information allowed the buy-out team to estimate that revenue in the final year before been allocated and final bids the franchise started would he

months more recent than the from the three shortlisted comfigures supplied to the other panies for Regional Railways Bayley, MP for York, where Read thought we had just lost giooal Railways North East is out. But these documeots sughreach of the franchising rules, was not made available to other bidders."

Mr Bayley will be tabling an early day motion in the Commons on Monday.

A rival bidder, which did not reach the sbortlisting stage even though it had asked for the least amount of subsidy, is now also asking for the bidding process to be re-opened and is

considering legal action. lan Yeowart, head of the Grand Central team, spid: "1

fice issued a statement saying that the franchising director had maintained "a level playing tield for all bidders". The management buy-out

team hid had been "adjusted" to remove the use of the more up-to-date figures.

And he added: "The shortlist represents what the franchising director considers to be the best and most credible proposals for running the Regional Railways North East

significant shorts

Independence It's not their sex of Rikki Neave that keeps

The independence of a report out today on social services handling of the Rikki Neave tragedy has

been called into question. Rikki, six, was found strangled to death near his home in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, two years ago. His mother, Ruth Neave, 28, was found not guilty of his murder last October, but jailed for seven

years for cruelty.
Joanne Kaye-Smith, senior regional officer for Unison, said the county council had commissioned the report from the consultancy The Bridge, and set the parameters. She said researchers did not interview any of the social workers involved and demanded "a full independent inquiry". Rikki's aunt, Sandra Chesney. said no member of the family had been involved.

A county council spokesman stressed the report was independent, and said: "There bave been. interviews with 17 present and former members of staff." Glenda Cooper

Malaria vaccine clears hurdles

The first ever experimental vaccine against malaria to provide a high degree of protection has been identified by scientists at SmithKline Beecham and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. In trials, six out of seven volunteers given the to such groups. most advanced form of the vaccine remained free of infection. All of the nonvaccinated volunteers became infected.

The results described in the New England Journal of Medicine follow?" ears of research!" the ! . d looking for replacements for current drugs and s rientists will now trial the vaccine in West Africa. Clare Garner

'Safe' sheep dip warning

River life is being decimated by new pesticides being used in sheep dips to replace chemicals involved in a health scare.

Up to balf the sheep farmers in Britain are believed to have stopp using organophosphate dips over the past two years after fears about their effects on workers' health. But while the new synthetic pyrethroids are not harmful to bumans. they are killing off thousands of invertebrates, such as mayflies and freshwater shrimps, a report in New

Scientist magazine said.

report queried women off work Women tend to be absent from work more than men, but this has nothing to do with their gender, a conference on occupational

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psychology was told yesterday.
Penny Moyle, of Nuffield College, Oxford, told the British Psychological Society in Blackpool that a study of full-time staff at a major supermarket chain found senior personnel had better attendance records whateve their sex. Dr Moyle said women filled more junior positions and those more likely to involve legitimate absence - for example, staff on a delicatessen counter would not be expected to work if they had a cold for fear of contaminating food, while "a senior executive flying a desk at company headquarters' would be.

Funding stays for refugees

Government grants to organisations helping refugees in Britain will remain "substantially the same" in the next financial year, the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, bas decided. The disclosure was made by Timothy Kirkhope, Home Office minister in a letter to Tory backbencher Sir Julian Critchley who had expressed concern at reports last month that Mr Howard was to halve official funding

Inquest on musician's son

A post-mortem examination to establish the cause of the death of the son of Shadows guitarist Hank Marvin has proved inconclusive so far, an inquest was told yesterday. The bearing into the death of Dean Marvin, 34, whose body was found last Monday at a YMCA hostel for the homeless in oorth Londoo. was opened and adjourned.

Junk mail fills bins

Most consumer mail is a waste of paper, ink and effort because it is not targeted properly, a new survey has concluded. Families in one street in south-west London thought 87 per ceut of their mail sbots and leaflet drops over four weeks was fit only for the hin. Just 13 per cent of 900 were of any interest, according Recognition Systems, which belps businesses identify potential customers.

Social work high-flyer who was darling of left



Roger Dobson

David Divine was one of the leading figures in social services of "loony-left" obsessions with services for minority groups.
As director of social services

in Brent, north-west London, he acquired a reputation as a champion of a number of causes and was at the forefront of the debate over same-race adoption, an

London boroughs.

television programmes and beat a time when the London bor- came to be seen as a leading fig- care. He was very energetic and oughs were beset by allegations ure in social services when it was going through a particularly controversial time.

A Christian and a family man, he was born in Scotland and one of his first care jobs was in Edinburgh. One former director of scribed him as a forceful, com-

issue which first emerged in the mitted man. "He was in care Brent."He came from nowhere Training of Social Workers He appeared on a number of side as it were, the problems and issues involved with those in keen. He was involved in key is- front and espousing various in the development of the prosues and did advise some influential committees."

After 18 months in Edinburgh, he moved south to London and worked in the East End boroughs of Hackney and Towsocial services in England de- er Hamlets before getting the job of social services director in

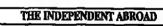
himself and knew, from the in- to what was one of the most im- (CCETSW), the body which portant jobs in social services." said the former director.

"He was always in the forecauses. He acquired a reputat. for committing himself to causes and was frequently used almost as a spokesman for the profession.

Mr Divine left Brent in the 1980s. He joined the Central Council for the Education and

oversees and training and development of all practitioners in the UK which is influential ression, which does not have a governing body like the Gener-al Medical Council.

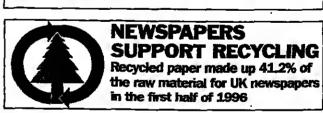
He left CCETSW around four years ago and now works as an independent consultant and lives in Walthamstow, northeast London, with his family.



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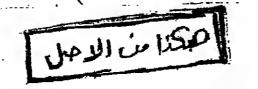
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A nation stuck for words

Half of British adults lack literacy skills

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Almost half British adults lack the literacy skills needed to cope with modern life, an authoritative international survey to be published later this year will show.

The study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reveals that nearly 50 per cent of British 16-to -65-year-olds have difficulty understanding a hus timetable or following instructions about how to position a

bicycle seat correctly.

Its findings come as both the Conservatives and Labour are preparing to put higher standards in literacy and numeracy at the heart of their election campaigns.

Yesterday, David Blunkett, shadow Secretary of State for Education, demanded the report be published before the general election so that the public could judge the Government's record. The Office for National Statistics is not due to release it until the summer - after the last possible date for an election.

More than 40,000 adults in 14 countries were tested in the survey. Results for the first seven countries were published two years ago and the survey of the rest, including England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, was carried out last year.

Participants were interviewed and given tasks to determine where they should be placed on a five-level scale which measures functional literacy. People at the lowest level - one - cannot even

tle. People at level three cannot, for example, look at a hus timetable and say when the last bus for a particular destination teaves on Saturday night.

Experts say people need to reach level three to cope with the demands of everyday life in modern society hut nearly 50 per cent of Britons failed to do so in the new survey. In the study of the first seven countries Sweden came top with only around a quarter of people unable to carry out level three tasks and the Netherlands came second with around 30 per cent. Germany was third with around 40 per cent. The figure for the US was just under 50 per cent.

Polish adults performed worst with 7 out of 10 unable to complete the level three tasks. France was so emharrassed by the results that it withdrew be-

fore the final report came out. Details of the latest study are heing finalised for the OECD by Statistics Canada which will work out the final ranking of the I4 countries during the next six weeks. Mr Blunkett said; "ft is vital that voters get the chance to judge the Government's record on literacy and numeracy hefore the election.

"If these results are as bad as indicated, they are an appalling indictment of the Government's record on basic skills. Ministers should publish them without delay. I will be pressing them to do so in parliament next week."

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, last week promised an announcement later this month on new initiatives to improve young



They don't need no education: Sue Atkins believes this attitude was common at her school Photograph: John Lawrence

'I could have done better but for school'

Sue Atkins struggled for years with everyday tasks. She could not write a letter because she was unsure about the spelling

Nor could she follow simple instructions. She once put a new bag in her vacuum eleaner and then covered the house

When cooking, instead of using recipes she flung all the ingredients in together. ingredients in together. Mrs Atkins, now aged 41 with five children, blames her schooling. "I was a vietim of my edu-cation," she said. "I feel that my secondary school failed me. The children in class who did

well were favoured by the teachers. Those of us who struggled more were just left to get on with it. We were left to help each other and often got it wrong. I left school with an immense lack of confidence."

Despite heing ignored by her teachers, she said she always felt she could do better at school if only she had been given a chance. "I loved words and I tried to write poetry hut could never think of the right

Her life changed two years hasie skills course at her local adult education centre.

"I explained to them that I was ever so old and that I didn't want to he rich or famous. I just wanted to be sure about simple things." She went from strength to discipline and not enough restrength and now teaches spect for teachers," she said.

other adults who have failed to master hasic skills.

Mrs Atkins attended a secondary modern school. She left at 15 to work as a general clerk in a solicitor's office where she answered the telephone and did filing. "At school I didn't even take any exams. Nobody suggested that I should. We were given no en-

Nobody, she said, did any thing to counter the culture in school that "if you worked you were a swat or a bottin. If you were a swat you weren't one of the girls for the boys."

Mrs Atkins said: "I remember one teacher who was very impersonal. He called us all by our surnames so that you didn't feel there was anything personal going on between you and the teacher."

Most teachers, she said, had low expectations of the less able pupils. "If you couldn't do it, they made you think it didn't matter.

"The trouble with the school was that they assumed we had learned all we needed to know about reading and writing, spelling and punetu-ation in our primary schools, ago when she at last plucked In fact, many of us needed up the courage to attend a to have that knowledge reinforced."

She believes schools have improved hut says that some of the young people whom she teaches have suffered hecause teachers have been too soft on them. "There is not enough

Rats in the roof, freezing classes. Welcome to Britain's most dilapidated school



Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

The village school is crumbling, the roof is rat-infested and during the winter the 110 pupils sit wrapped up in anoraks and

There is nowhere for PE in the Victorian school and while the children freeze in the winter, temperatures in some classrooms soar to more than 100F in the summer.

Today the visiting local MP at Weeting primary school, near Thetford, in Norfolk, will be given a hard time by the school staff. The fact that the MP is Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education, will add a

certain piquancy to the occasion.
Mrs Shephard will face protests from slaff at the school which is just a few miles from her home, as she tours classrooms so cold children as young as five are forced to study in

coats and scarves. The headteacher, Andrea Colley, plans to confront the secretary of state with a catalogue of structural horrors besetting the school, which she claims has been promised new buildings an-

Gillian Shephard will feel the heat when she visits a schoolhouse so cold pupils wear overcoats indoors

thatched roof of the original schoolhouse, built in the 1860s by a local earl for the education of village children, attracts rats and mice, while two wooden mobile classrooms added a century later have no insulation. Temperatures plunge almost to freezing in winter, while in summer they can soar as high as 105F sending the infants to

sleep at their desks. Mrs Shephard, visiting the school to open a new environmental area created with cash raised by staff, will be told how children must put on outdoor clothes to make the timeconsuming trip between huildings for assembly, lunch and - for

one class - to go to the toilet. The lack of a hall makes indoor PE impossible, reducing games in freezing weather to 15 minutes' runaround on the field. Mrs Colley said the school had pleaded for over a decade with Norfolk County Council

nually for the past five years. The and directly to the Department for Education and Employment (DFEE) for refurbishment and renewal of its

buildings, but without success. Mrs Shephard, as conbacking to the cause before becoming education secretary by supporting a council delegation to Westminster, describing one of the Sixties-huilt classrooms

as a "warped and sagging build-ing", the head said. She added: "The secretary of state says the LEA has the money for repairs and the authority is saying it doesn't, so hopefully they will thrash it out during the visit and finally resolve this." Pupils and staff managed to

put a hrave face on the huilding problems, and inspectors had warmly praised education at Weeting in a recent report, Mrs Colley said. "I have seen the children come into assemamong puddles of melting snow expect to win.

hut they keep smiling and keep happy hecause that is what Weeting children are like." Staff want the schoolhouse

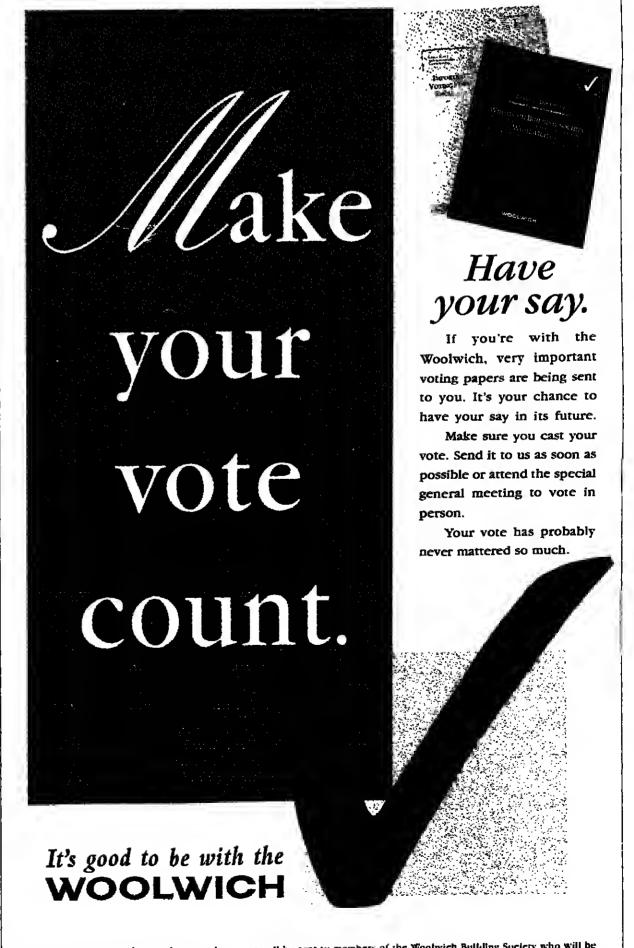
and two thatched classrooms, all Grade 2 listed, refurbished for continued use by the school. together with a new hall and permanent classrooms.

A Norfolk County Council spokesman said the authority had made an urgent application stituency MP, had even lent her lo the DFEE for permission to borrow money to rebuild Weeting this year but had been lurned down. The council had a £36m backlog of school

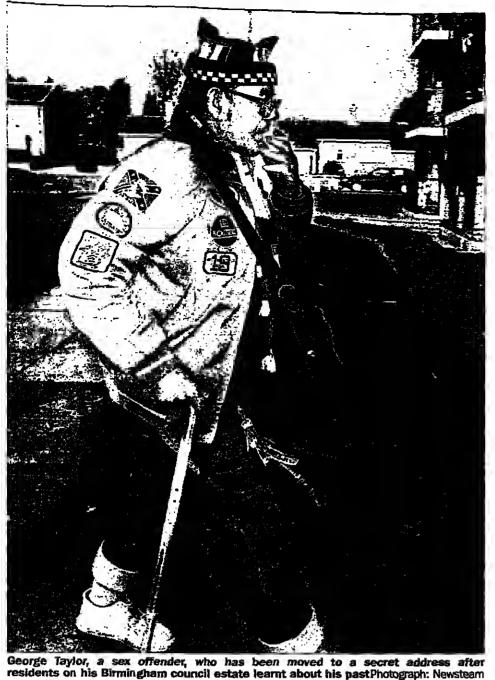
huilding repairs, he said.

A DFEE spokesman said Norfolk County Council had missed two opportunities this financial year to hid for government funding to help Weeting school, including a schools renewal scheme and a crossdepartment challenge fund.

He added: "We are doing all we can to assist local authorities in meeting their responsihilities for managing their building stock but it is for authorities to take full advantage of opportunities available. If you hly this morning and sit down don't enter the race you can't



The vuting papers and an explanatory document will be sent to members of the Woodwich Building Society who will be entitled to vote under the Building Societies Act 1986 and the Society's Rules. The document will contain Important information about the conversion of the Wootwich into a bank and full details of entitlement to vote in person or by proxy through the post. Any decision on voting should be based solely on information contained in the document.



This man is a convicted sex offender: Should he be denied somewhere to live?

Glenda Cooper

A council official faces disciplinary action for allegedly alerting mothers on a Birmingham council estate that a paedophile was moving into the area.

The case raises the questions of whether convicted sex offenders should be able to live in the community and if so whether people should be informed. Mike Wood, a housing officer for Birmingham City Council, allegedly tipped off mothers on the estate in Garrett's Green, that George Taylor, a man who had been jailed for indecent assault

nn a young girl was moving into the area. Mr Wood was suspended on full pay in November when the allegations came to light. While he has now appeared in front of Birmingham city housing offi-cials three times, public support for him on the Clopton Road estate has been

running high with a 1,000-name petition handed into housing officials.
Kelly Forbes, 20, who has a three-year-old son, claimed that Taylor sent her kve letters scrawled on the back of cigarette packets and beer mats which he posted through her front door. She said: "He shouldn't have been allowed to live around here where there are children."

The case is the latest to come to light in a long-running debate. In December ministers announced that paedophiles and other sex offenders will have to register their addresses with the police and that they were also considering an American system in which communities

There was anger when it was disclosed that a senior social worker had warned that Shaun Armstrong, who killed three-year-old Rosie Palmer in Hartlepool in1994, was "likely to be a risk to any child he comes into contact with", vet had been housed in a council estate full

In nearby Middlesbrough, the local authority has announced that it will formally exclude sex offenders from estates. And last November headteachers at

group of primary schools in South Wales wrote to parents warning about a paedophile who moved into the area. The teachers passed on details of the man's appearance, car and vehicle registration number after police tipped off the local education authority.

Yesterday, the disciplinary hearing in Birmingham was adjourned until a week today. Mr Wood is accused of disclosing confidential information about

Following protests on the estate, Tay-lor was moved out for his own safety last month. He had come to the estate following his release from prison in Essex. A police spokesman said: "We can confirm that Mr Taylor was recently released after serving a prison sentence for the indecent assault of a young girl."

After three weeks he was removed by police for a day for his own safety hul returned 24 hours later. He spent another two days under police protection estate, is concerned for her son

are informed when paedophiles move before being n. d with his mother to into the district.

There is no paedophiles move a secret address in me city.

A residents' spokesman said: "We believe that if Mike Wood did tell residents to keep their children away from a dangerous tenant, he was doing the right thing. He should, therefore, be reinstated

Ann Fleming, spokeswoman for Birmingham's housing department, said:



We are not told of the previous convictions of tenants under any circumstances ... There is no register we can refer to to find out whether prospective tenants have a record of sexual crimes."

But a Liberal Democrat councillor,

John Hemming, who is leading the campaign to save Mr Wood's job, said:
"[Mr Wood] is just being used as a scapegoat. He felt that Taylor could be a danger to children and felt that the mothers on the estate had a right to know about his criminal convictions. I don't believe Mr Wood should be in danger of losing

his job as a result of what he has done.

But Jackie Craissati, head of forensic clinical psychology services for southeast London, warned that excluding paedophiles was not necessarily the

hest way to protect children.
"People think that child abusers are strange men in bedsits targeting kids on the street. In fact probably as much abuse goes on within the home," she said.
"Children are more at risk from their own parents, brothers, uncles and grandparents than they are from strangers al-

though I do understand the concerns."

She said that if offenders were never allowed to be rehoused the more dangerous men continued to move around. Then it is more difficult to follow them up and they lose contact with probation officers, psychologists or any kind of supervision which makes them more likely to reoffend."

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Secret of abuse that shames all societies

A hundred years ago child abuse remained hidden, with Freudian theory a great influence. When there were reports of child sex abuse it was put down to female hysteria re-flecting psychological problems

on the parts of the victims. vears that we have begun to believe that sexual abuse of children exists. The climate has changed as social attitudes have changed, and people have had less difficulty in disclosing what abuse and develop knowledge about them.

It is impossible to say why attitudes did change. It would have to be highly speculative but I think it would have something situations, their role, percep-tions of their sexuality and also hetter, but also it is impossible vice.

Susan Hope-Borland reveals that paedophilia is as old as mankind

recognition of marital rape. When the question comes up as to whether sex offenders It is only in the past 10 to 15 should be able to live in the community, it is difficult to answer. Sex offenders are not a homogeneous group. They differ widely in their problems, atti-

tudes and offending patterns. With some offenders there is has happened to them. The a validity in not allowing them the long term effects of child many years ago and they may have had extensive treatment

to say accurately how many changes in the law such as the children are abused because even today there is so much that

still remains hidden. Paedophilia has been found in every society throughout history but there are contrasts in how seriously each took it and what action was taken. In some cultures paedophilia was not seen as wrong. Certainly there are well-documented reports mechanisms to deal with them to live in the community in orthat amongst tribes in New have also been put in place. der to protect children. But in Guinea paedophilia was con-Therapists have come to realise some cases the offence was sidered acceptable. And the definition of paedophilia itself has changed. For example, at and may no longer pose a seri- one time it was considered norous risk. But they are still wor- mal for people to be given in ried that they will be subject to hostility and are very afraid.

marriage at the age of 12.

Susan Hope-Borland is an

It is difficult to say if cases of expert on paedophilia and conto do with changes in women's child abuse are rising, partly be-sultant clinical psychologist with cause reporting has got so much the North Wales Forensic Ser-

Merger creates TV giant

Mathew Horsman Media Editor

The country's largest privately owned independent television production company will be unveiled today, with the news that Barraclough Carey and Mentorn Films are merging. The two companies, which

between them produce about 600 hours of television a year. are responsible for Challenge Anneka, Carlton's Capital Woman, and the Gerry Anderson programme Space Precinct. hours of radio programming. Barraclough-Carey, jointly

Gutteridge, has concentrated on entertainment. "The two companies are an excellent fit," Mr Carey said yesterday, "In the independent television sector, you have to be careful about becoming too

specialises in factual program-

ming. Mentorn, run by Tom

specialised, and this deal gives us a good deal of depth of resources and talent." They also make about 1,500 jority owner of the company, and

Mr Gutteridge will be the maecutive. A stock-market listing meet the demand.

run by George Carey and Jenny Barraclough, the former head of BBC Documentaries, circles as a confirmation that a new round of consolidation has started. For several years, the independent sector has been awash with rumours of buyouts and mergers, with the hig pro-duction companies like Thames, Granada and Carlton

favoured as hidders. "It is clear that there will be fewer independents within a year or two," Mr Gutteridge said. The prospect of 200 channels to fill will mean that companies will have to be big will assume the role of chief ex- enough and diverse enough to

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er, who we have an obligate e not told of the premium d tenants under any dies. There is no register and a find out whether proper are a reserved to seems that Liberal Democrat council, mmeny, who is leading to Ho save Mr Wood's list the od sugar being used as a cap-felt that Lation could be ade ldren and felt that the mone tate had a right to know the The certifications, I don'theles. I should be in Ganger of loga result of a net no has day cker Craissail, head of his a prestadogo ser des foreig iden, warned frial exclude to protect children le think that child shuene nen in hedsits argeing be. . In fact probably a muchale within the larme, the sec

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* Labraine Administrator partiti QL

Science Editor Ballooning experts were last night puzzling over telemetry data to try to understand why the Virgin Challenger balloon plummeted earthwards in the early hours of Tuesday morning - almost killing Richard Branson and his two crewmates. The team were unhurt ves-

Charles Arthur

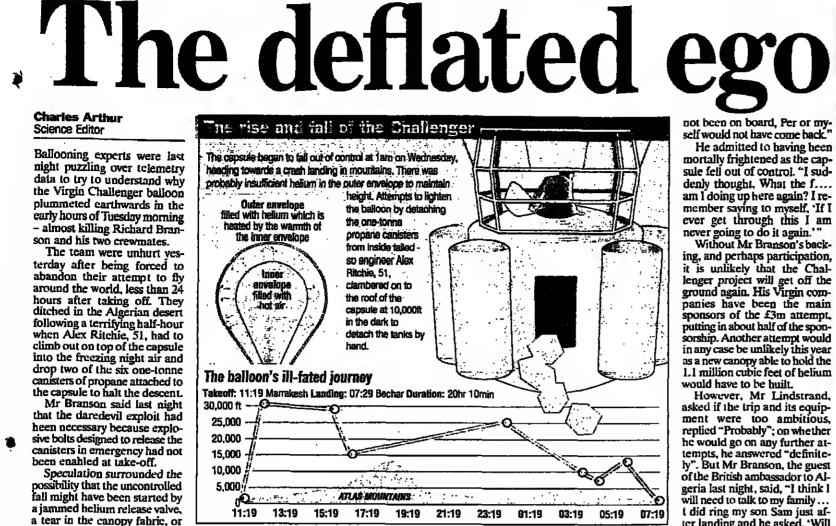
terday after being forced to abandon their attempt to fly around the world, less than 24 hours after taking off. They ditched in the Algerian desert following a terrifying half-hour when Alex Ritchie, 51, had to climb out on top of the capsule into the freezing night air and drop two of the six one-tonne canisters of propane attached to the capsule to halt the descent. Mr Branson said last night

that the daredevil exploit had heen necessary because explosive bolts designed to release the canisters in emergency had not been enabled at take-off.

Speculation surrounded the possibility that the uncontrolled fall might have been started by a jammed helium release valve. a tear in the canopy fabric, or that the crew released too much helium to control their rapid rise after takeoff.

Don Cameron, a balloonist who is preparing to make his own attempt to cross the world by balloon, said: "It could be that everything went wrong because of a 50-franc [£1] sensor."

He suggested that a piece of the thin layer of ice covering the top of the balloon in the freezing night air may have dropped into the gas valve controlling the release of helium.



ly, so the balloon started descending and lost a lot of helium." he said.

Mike Kendrick, the Virgin project director, said it was clear that the system - involving releasing helium to control ascent or lose height, and dumping ballast to control descent -"did not work". But he added, "We'll look at the telemetry on Thursday morning. It wasn't a tear, and the balloon was in dry air - the possibility of icing is

really remote. We're not both-They probably tried to open ering with explanations at the the valve electronically and a moment. We weren't asking piece of ice probably got in, preventing it from closing perfected to know where."

A potentially fatal crash was only averted by the daring of Mr Ritchie, the oldest member of the crew, who was a last-minute replacement for an ill colleague. As the balloon descended at 400 fect per minute - twice as fast as an express lift - he unhitched

ly reducing the weight. Eventually they landed safely in the Algerian desert near the town of Bechar at 7.29am - just 400 miles from their starting point in Marrakesh in Morocco. after flying for 20 hours and 10 minutes. It was a dismal end to the high hopes that Mr Branson

balloon's designer and a co-pilot, of circling the world non-stop in three weeks, using the jetstream at 30,000ft to blow them along. But they managed to land the capsule undamaged.

We've had quite a lot of adventure that we would rather not the propane canisters, criticalhave had," Mr Branson said, and added: "I'm sure that if Alex had

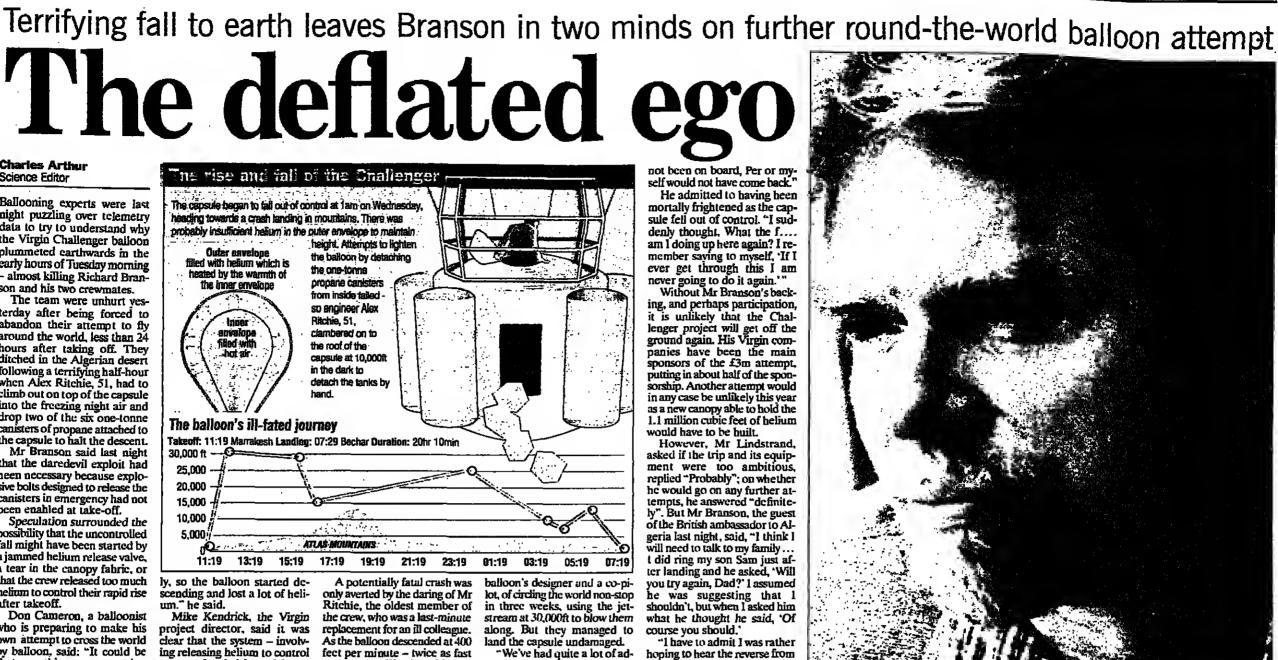
not been on board, Per or myself would not have come back." He admitted to having heen mortally frightened as the capsule fell out of control. "I suddenly thought, What the f.... am I doing up here again? I re-member saying to myself, 'If I ever get through this I am

never going to do it again."

Without Mr Branson's backing, and perhaps participation, it is unlikely that the Challenger project will get off the ground again. His Virgin companies have been the main sponsors of the £3m attempt, putting in about half of the sponsorship. Another attempt would in any case be unlikely this year as a new canopy able to hold the 1.1 million cubic feet of helium

would have to be huilt. However, Mr Lindstrand, asked if the trip and its equipment were too ambitious, replied "Probably"; on whether he would go on any further attempts, he answered "definite-ly". But Mr Branson, the guest of the British ambassador to Algeria last night, said, "I think I vill need to talk to my family . . . t did ring my son Sam just after landing and he asked, 'Will you try again, Dad?' I assumed he was suggesting that 1 shouldn't, but when I asked him what he thought he said, 'Of

course you should. "I have to admit I was rather hoping to hear the reverse from him. But there are other elements of my family I will have to talk to about it



Branson: "We've had quite a lot of adventure that we would rather not have had"

Rescuers hope to reach missing sailors today

Jan Burrell

Australian rescuers hope that today they will reach Tony Bullimore, the British yachtsman sub-Amarctic waters.

emergency beacon had drifted Australia. clear of the yacht. Members of his back-up team in Bristol said the boat, Exide Challenger, had four beacons. The one drifting was not in distress mode and. they were confident Mr Bul-

picked up a distress signal from Mr Bullimore on Sunday, is near another yachtsman, Thierry Dubois, 29, who capsized in the same storm. The frigate captain, said that after rescuing cue," he said.

launch a helicopter this morn-ing to pick up the Frenchman, who is in a liferaft.

they believe is inside the hull of Dubois, competitors in the his capsized yacht in freezing Vendée Globe round-the-world

Aircraft have sighted Mr Bullimore's yacht but there was no sign of him. Listening devices dropped yesterday failed to elicit a response.

Andrew Reynolds, an Auslimore was still with the yacht. tralian defence spokesman, The rescue team, which said: "It does not mean hecause we have not heard ... that he is not there or that he is

dead."

HMAS Adelaide hoped to Mr Dubois the frigate would launch a helicopter this morn-head 60 miles south to Mr Bullimore's yacht, but could spend ho is in a liferaft.

Mr Bullimore and Mr conditions of the search zone.

The yacht's manufacturers have said that Mr Bullimore race, overturned 900 miles from could survive reasonably well in Yesterday it emerged that his Antarctica and 1,400 miles from the boat's two living spaces and would have about 140 hours of air.

Rescuers will try to establish contact with Mr Bullimore through the hull, so that he can swim out, or will attempt to cut a hole into the yacht.

The Australian skipper did not play down the difficulties of recovering the yachtsmen in the turbulent waters.

This is the furthest south Raydon Gates, the Adelaide's we've ever had to effect a res-

Company plans to provide poor with cheap electricity

Energy Action, a charity work-

ing with the Government to pro-

mote energy efficiency in

combine the provision of non-

profit electricity with greater

Chief Political Correspondent

More than a million low-income households could see their electricity bills cut by 10 per cent and their dehts wiped out under an initiative being planned by a non-profit-making company.

People who are already having difficulties paying their bills will be offered low-cost electricity by the Energy Action Grants Agency, known as Eaga Ltd. which administers the Government's home energy efficiency scheme. Well-off

households would not qualify. John Clough, chief executive of Eaga, said the initial target would be the 64,000 customers who are on social security benefits and who have their bills paid direct by the Benefits

Mr Clough said the turn-over. of people on direct payments was so great that he was looking to supply over one million customers with electricity at cost. This would mean heavily undercutting all the to cheap power scher. 3 main electricity suppliers in

Britain. If the plan takes off, Eaga could expand and supply cut-price water and gas to millions more low-income households.

The scheme has been made possible under the Government's privatisation and competition legislation, which allows companies to buy and resell electricity. Under the plan, Eaga would buy electricity and sell it on at cost to the poor.

Andrea Cook, said: "Because we are a non-profit-making company, we don't have to pay dividends to shareholders, and we can cut our rates." Ms Cook is also the director of National

cerned about the high charges that people on direct payments are facing, and the impact of the competitive market. We are investigating the possibility of tier supplier whereby it would Ms Cook says she is keen to provide lower cost electricity

> "We would sell low cost electricity to low income families because we want them to have the benefit of competition."

The disclosure by The Independent on 20 December that Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, is poised to end the direct payment arrangements, acted as a spur for Eaga to become involved.

Peter Lilley: Cost-cutting led

fuel efficiency in low-income households. Eaga is considering offering a package of advice on energy efficiency, and grants to provide homes with lagging and insulation.

Beneficiaries of the scheme could also have their existing debts on fuel taken over by the company if they reduced their use of electricity through energy efficiency measures. "It is ments for themselves will lead common in America," said Mr to more being cut off.

Clough. "So long as they play ball and use less fuel, we could wipe out that debt from the previous supplier for fuel."

Ms Cook said: "We are contaking on a licence as a second specifically to low income cus-

Lord Russell, the Liberal Democrat peer, has tabled questions for 14 January in the Lords about the Government's threat to cut that service to save costs. A leaked document said that Mr Lilley had agreed with the Benefits Agency to disengage from direct payments, and that the Agency should "not be in the business of social banking/dcht management."

The move has angered social security officers who make the direct payments, and try to help poor people to get out of debt. It is feared that leaving people to sort out the pay-

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Road protesters dig the dirt on minister | Lib Dems



Newbury bypass protesters yesterday stuck an eviction notice to the home of Sir George Young, the Secretary of State for Transport, then dug a "road"

through his garden.

Around 25 campaigners worked unhindered for more than an hour at Sir George's house in a secluded spot at Cookham, near Maidenhead, Berk-

work on the bypass route. Four of them trailed hanners proclaiming "save Newhury's landscape" and "Newhury today, where next?" from his roof while others dug up a 20ft by 15ft stretch of his hack lawn. Some are thought to

have gained entrance to the house. suspicion of conspiracy to cause criminal damage after police were alerted. Bourne, near Newbury, another dozen protesters delivered more than 1,000 postcards objecting to the bypass.

A spokesman for the campaigners, who call themselves the Third Battle of Newbury, said although that bypass was going ahead, road-building was still a live issue. "Roads are still being planned and in sensitive areas. Although Sir George didn't approve the

Only Currys bring you all this

very similar." And he added that Sir George, who is known as the Bicycling rather than carry on building more cars Baronet, should be called the Bulldozing Baronct instead.

Speaking shortly before being ar-rested at Cookham, Viki Lloyd, 24, a political researcher, said she thought Sir George would be upset by the at-tack hut added: "It would be far more upsetting if a real road was huilt here At the same time, at a second home Newbury one, he's minded to ap-belonging to Sir George in St Mary prove the Salishury scheme which is through. We are urging Sir George to ful protest and will not be tolcrated."

and more roads. A Department of Transport spokesman for Sir George said the protest was a matter for police. "They should not he committing criminal damage of this nature." Thames Valley Police Assistant Chief Constable Robert Davies added: "Attacking the

face revolt. on Labour alliance

Political Correspondent

The Liberal Democrats were facing a backbench rebellion last night over the party's talks with Labour on constitutional

One Liberal Democrat MP. Liz Lynne, has told the party leader, Paddy Ashdown, that she will not support any coalition with Labour. Last night she aid she believed that some of her backbench colleagues might take the same course. Although she would not resign the whip, she said she would take each issue on its merits and would not be bound by any Lib-Lah pact.

The talks, which are due to conclude within the next month, are aimed at reaching cross-party agreement on issues includmg the reform of the House of Lords and the House of Commons, a Freedom of Information Act and a Bill of Rights. They are also due to touch on proportional representation.

There has been speculation that the discussions could lead to more formal links between the two parties after the

Yesterday Miss Lynne criticised the talks and said they had caused great concern among party members. She added that Shirley Williams had raised a cheer at the party's conference when she said it should not give up its principles for a handful

-ran Abrams

servative Party.

bolic" sell-off.

The National Audit Office is to

investigate the Government's

sale of Her Majesty's Stationery

Office, it was confirmed last night. Labour has complained

that the firm which bought the

office had links with the Con-

Although an NAO spokes-woman said last night that an in-

large-scale privatisations, the

opposition party was claiming a victory in its campaign to ex-

pose what it sees as a "sham-

The sale of HMSO to a com-

pany called Electra Fleming for £54m has been repeatedly

attacked by the Labour Party.

A Commons motion put down by the frontbencher Bri-

an Wilson said it was "hopelessly tainted and against the public interest. It added that Robert

Fleming, one of the firm's di-

rectors, had given £527,000 to the Conservative Party and that

the Electra Investment Trust,

with the former cahinet minister Tom King and the Tory peer Lord Vinson as hoard

members, had "chipped in at least £40,000".

Last night. Derek Foster, shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said: "I am

delighted that the NAO has re-

sponded to my calls for a thor-

ough investigation into the

shambolic sale of the stationery

office. We totally opposed this

listened to? If I was planning the Labour Party campaign this is one of the things I would be plotting. It destroys our vote."

Miss Lynne added that if a coalition were formed, she would not adhere to party dis-cipline, and that some of her colleagues might do likewise. "I suspect some of my colleagues would not be bound hy the party whip. I helieve ours is the mainstream and the people out on a limb are those wanting to get closer to Labour," she said.

The Conservative Party's deputy chairman, Michael Trend, seized on Miss Lynne's condemnation of the "new Lib-Lab pact". He said: "Liz Lynne is a lonely voice in a Liberal De-mocrat Party which has sur-rendered its independence to New Labour. She senses correctly that voters will see no reason to vote for the Lib Dems when their only aim is to put Tony Blair into 10 Downing Street. The dishonest deal between the Lib Dems and New Labour is the double danger

now facing Britain." Asked whether he would endorse PR before the election. Mr Blair said yesterday that he had no intention of doing so. "I have always made my position clear on PR. I have not been persuaded on it. It is not about for pacts or deals. What I have is a desire to ensure that sensible constitutional change is put through in the best

crass privatisation from the oulset. The knock-down sale of the

office for less than a third of its market value was a complete dis-

grace and I trust the NAO will

probe all aspects of this murky

An NAO spokeswoman said: "We have made a decision that

we are going to do a report on

the HMSO, but it is standard."

The investigation was just one

major privatisations, she added.

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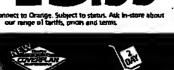
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that Paddy Ashdoon and listened in 121 has plante. Labour post impaging one of the first back pleating R 2 2 m. out Miss Lyon added they costituit was format would be a subject to beautiful and the subject to beautiful and the subject to beautiful and the subject to be su entleagues man doll ne Suspect of the Property of the World of the Conference of the Conf is whip I real the same mainstream and the post-On a limb of the combine get cover of Lab of the The Comment of Trend Met concernition of the fact Lab par. H. and Tala is a formal, and a full state of moure, P. (2.7 mag)

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Computers bought for Christmas are already out of date. Although those shopping for computers as presents were unaware, a more powerful processor to improve graphics, sound and video was just waiting to be launched Yesterday Intel, the world's largest chip maoufacturer, unveiled its MMX chip, an add-on for its hest-selling Pentium processor. But even

Steve Homer

ing fast, expressed surprise.
"I think people will be really annoved," said Jan Howells, of Computer Life magazine. "Intel plan a massive advertising campaign and Joe Public is going to say: 'Why wasn't I told about this before Christmas'."

computer experts, used to an industry in which things chang-

Richard Wentk, of the Which? Guide to Computers. said: "That just goes to show that people really need to do their research before they buy a computer." He added that software which could make proper use of MMX's multimedia capabilines would not be available until late spring.

"As far as basic applications are concerned the chip will make no difference whatsoever. It is a solution waiting for some problems to appear. It's a nice development in theory which will do things programmers can get excited about but there are not any 'killer' applications," he said.

With more and more "ordinary" people huying PCs, especially for the home, many self-taught experts will be wondering why technology has 2000. "We have no problem with

Last year's model: Thanks to a new generation of microchip called MMX, personal computers bought as recently as last month are behind the times Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee to change quite so fast, and

particularly why a significant improvement to PC technology is held over until after the main Christmas buying period. Intel said it could not launch MMX sooner because it lacked sufficient software support, and could not produce enough of the chips to meet expected demand. But with less than 15

delaying the announcement.
"I would have liked to give MMX to my customers before Christmas but it was not available," said John Shepheard, general manager of the PC direct sales company Gateway

MMX titles available at launch

there seemed little reason for

inventory, but for others, changing over 10 a new type of proces-sor is inevitably a problem."

MMX stands for multimedia extensions, "MMX technology

produce much better graphics, vidco and audio," said Ian Wilson, Intel's European technology manager.

These come in various speeds with the slowest being around 66MHz and the fastest now 200MHz. Intel has introduced

Christmas computers have had their chips

has no plans to introduce MMX versions of the slower processors which it expects will cease to be mainstream products by the end of the year.

should get a 10 to 20 per cent performance boost from MMX but to get the real benefit software applications have to he specially written for MMX.

tles will operate up to 60 per cent faster on MMX-enhanced PCs compared with ordinary packages on ordinary Pentium machioes, lo certain special multimedia-intensive tasks. Such as fast video sequences or complicated visual tricks, MMN systems could operate two or

three times faster. While Intel charges about £50 extra for an MMX chip. Gateway and many others will not be charging extra for an

MMX version of a machine. MMX will start appearing in the shops over the next few weeks. For some computer games and multimedia titles it might produce a significant benefit but with "ordinary" Pentium PCs so heavily discounted after the Christmas rush, many bargain hunters should be sticking with the machines they know.

Jan Howells said: "For real games people who are into arcade-type 3D games they should perhaps wan for MMX. For other people, the price of inventory held by vendors and manufacturers is bound to drop and there should be some real

Cable clears way for schools to surf the Net

Mathew Horsman

Britain's cable operators yesterday offered the oation's schools low-cost unlimited access to the Internet, in a move that is sure to provoke a similar offer from British Telecom, the leading telecommunica-

Uoder the ooc-price offer. schools in cable-franchise areas can dial up and use the Interoet without paying per-minute charges. The operators will make a moothly charge of £50 for a high-speed ISDN line, in additional to annual charges of between £100 and £500, depending on school size. Thereafter, calls are free.

Mary Marsh, head teacher at Holland Park School in London and the teacher representative on the Oftel Education Task Force, said: "This is excellent news for schools. A fixed-price. with unlimited use is exactly what is needed to open access to the Internet and on-line communications for all stu-

dents and teachers." Stephen Davidson, the chief executive of the cable company Telewest, and the chairman of the Cable Communicacions Association, added: "Our members have identified education as one of the three top priorities." educational material, statistics BT said it was prepared to and other general information.

offer similar low-charge access with unlimited calls, provided it could reach agreement with Oftel, the telecoms regulator. BT cootroversially reached a "deal" with the Labour Party in 1995 under which it would conoect all schools and other public-sector organisations in return for a relaxation of controls on the company's activities in hroadcasting.
The main impediment to

rapid growth in Internet use in the UK has been high call char-ges. In the United States, local service is free, after a monthly charge. BT last week confirmed it was considering packages that would combine fixed charges and unlimited local calls. Normal telephone lines can

be used to tap into the Internet. but the rate of data transfer can be slow. ISDN lines allow the transfer of up to 128 kilobits of information a second, com-pared to about 14 kilohits on traditional lines. The cable industry has spent

£6bn building a fibre-optic broad band network capable of carrying both television and telephony services. It has signed

up 1.6m customers nationwide. The Internet is viewed by educators as a prime tool for use in classrooms, with access to the worldwide network providing educational material, statistics



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What a way to run an opinion poll

It was supposed to be TV's great public debate but it turned out more like a public bar barney. Michael Streeter reports

The Carlton Television programme on the mooarchy, which attracted a record 2.6million telephone calls, came nnder attack yesterday for both the standard of debate and its boisterous live audience. Experts who took part in

Tuesday night's Monarchy: The Nation Decides, filmed at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, queued up to crit-icise the "pub debate" level of discussion. The Conservative MP and former minister Stephen Norris, who walked out after half an hour without tak-

ing part, described it as "crap". Nonetheless both television experts and politicians claimed that such mini-referendums filled a gap left by the failure of West-minster to debate key issues.

Across the United Kingdom. the telephone poll registered 66 per cent favouring the monar-chy, with 34 against. Only Scotland returned a majority republican vote, which reached 56 per cent. In Wales the split was 59 per cent pro-royalty, 41 per cent against; Northern Ireland, 64 per ceot in favour, 36 per cent against; and the English regions around 69 per cent pro, 31 per cent against.

There were complaints from many viewers that they could not get through on the phone lines - particularly on the "no" line. However, Buckingham Palace described the result as

"encouraging". Carlton and ITV Network executives were delighted with the success of the programme, on new ground here. There which was watched by an esti-

Live debate: The behaviour of the audience at the Monarchy filming in Birmingham has been criticised as hoisterous. Others say the programme made compelling viewing

started in the United States and has been operating in UK re-gional television for five years. Paul Corley, controller of factual programmes for the ITV network, said after the broadcast: "I think this is the sort of programme that ITV should be doing ... I think it was terrific television."

Executives also shrugged off criticism by panellists about the behaviour of the 3,000 audience who booed and heckled speakets, and the constant sparring betweeo experts.

Mike Morley, the programme's editor, said:"We were

mated 8.5 million viewers. The audience and you can't expect was frustrated by the format. "I format of this kind of television them to behave as if they are at boped there would be the a seance." He denied that the audience had been wound up to create atmosphere.

hoped there would he the chance to really talk seriously about issues, not just this boring old slagging off. It is just a The pacellist Claire Rayner

Mr Norris, who steps down as an MP at the next election, said the event reminded him of a cross between a rugby scrum and a pantomime. But he conceded that the appearance of such

programmes was a signal of a lack of debate in Washington k of debate in Westminster. Fellow panellist Professor Stephen Haseler, chairman of pressure group Republic and Professor of Government at

London Guildhall University, agreed that the programme was symbolic of the failure of Parliameot. There was little or no dehate between the main parties on the monarchy, Europe.

are moving into the field."

The Tory MP George
Walden called the programme
a " substitute for the silence of
politicians". "And when these emotions come out they are not

always a pretty sight," he said.
The reaction from the television industry was that Monarchy provided compelling viewing, if not enlightening debate. One senior observer said: "These participation programmes are hecoming a fad among current affairs producers who have seen that Westminster just isn't talking to the public."

Tom Gutteridge, chief executive of Mentorn Films which produces the phone-in You Decide with Jeremy Paxman for BBC1, said the latter was a much more tightly controlled debate than Carlton's, which was "referendum by TV". He doubted that more than a few hundred thousand people had called in; his experience suggested many people voted several times.

Carlton said last night that it made only a small amount from the telephone lines. But television historian Tony Currie said such revenue would become an important factor for programme makers. "What we had last night was in effect pay-to-view TV."

■ The hroadcasting watchdog Independent Television Commission said it received Incommission said it received Incommissio

mission said it received 16 cumplaints from the public on its overnight answering machine: on an average night it gets six.

Leading article, page 13

DAILY POEM

Heartmelt

By John Fuller

The treacherous blue of the hollow snow And the ancient blue of the Gletscher Are like the flicker of a headache Or the acid of the etcher Making transparent what was opaque, And now the haunting, oh so slow Beginning of movement, the light of ice Dripped from a lip of rock, showing The sun what beacons are, the glint And dribble of the water flowing Freely now, falling without stirt, Once each drop has fallen twice: The danger is past, as we have long felt: Though mountains are still there, the mountains melt.

This poem comes from John Fuller's latest collection, Stones and Fires (Chatto & Windus), which appears on the TS Eliot Prize shortlist after having won the 1996 Forward Poetry Prize. Chatto has also just published Fuller's Collected Poems.

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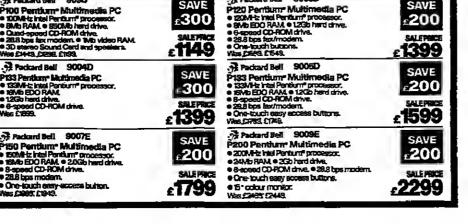
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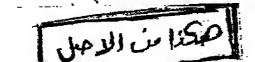
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Protests put UK ' link to Belgrade in line of fire

Andrew Gumbel Belgrade

Just two months ago. Britain was in the forefront of the European countries actively encouraging commercial ties with the autocratic rump Republic of Yugoslavia dominated by Presideot Slobodan Milosevic.

To some eyes, it looked like a fool-hardy policy from the beginning: offering the oxygen Mr Milosevic badly needed - foreign investment - to shore up his authority and holster the gangster economy he had huilt up over four years of war and international sanctions.

Now, after eight weeks of prodemocracy street protests against the Serbian presideot, that policy is effectively in tatters. By annulling municipal elections, which were woo convincingly by the oppositioo, and then sending riot police into the streets to try to contain the spootaneous protests that followed, Mr Milosevic has put himself beyond the pale of even the most cynical of foreign-policy formulators in Whitehall, the Quai d'Orsay and the Farnesina in Rome.

Commercial contacts, which had led to a number of fat contracts, in-

PRINTERS

Government backs down on election result

Belgrade (AP) - In a big concession to pro-democracy demonstrators, the Serbian government acknowledged last night that the opposition won the republic's second-largest city in municipal elections. A Justice Ministry statement read out on state television said that the opposition had won the city of Nis in the

17 November municipal elections. Nis is Serbia's second-largest city. Annulments of opposition victories there, in the capital, Belgrade, and 12 other municipalities sparked the protests that went into their 51st day yesterday.

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cluding a telecommunications deal with the French company Alcatel, have dried up, and emhassies in Belgrade have brought their scouting trips around the decrepit factories and mines of Serbia to an ahrupt end. The European Union and the United States have been unstinting in their statements urging Mr Milosevic to reinstate the election results and respect the basic rules of a civil and democratic society.

But the rapid policy transitions have not gone unnoticed among the intellectuals and fledgling opposition politiciaos of the pro-democracy novement, and even now much hitterness remains. The couotry invariably singled out for criticism is

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Britain, which has the unenviable reputation on the streets of Belgrade of heing Mr Milosevie's higgest chum io the international community.

The British Amhassador to Belgrade, Ivor Roberts, has been nicknamed "Roberts the Red" and is variously accused of schmoozing with Mr Milosevic and conspiring to contribute to the government campaign in the run-up to last November's elections.

The British government, meanwhile, has been accused of dragging its feet about joining the present chorus of international disapproval only doing so, as the street wisdom has it - when it found itself with no



spiratorial fantasy and hard fact. The fantasy largely concerns Mr Roberts, who seems to have been penalised for his ability to gain frequent hut above-board access to Mr Milosevic and other senior government officials - something that the rest of

As ever in the Balkans, public per-ceptions are a mixture of rather coo-grade taxi driver will accuse him of appearing "night after night" on state television during the election campaign, but in fact he was the subject of a single short report on a visit to a plastics factory.

> In reality, Mr Roberts was the first EU diplomat to draw up a draft reaction to the cancellation of the

elections. When the independent Belgrade radio station B-92 was shut down in December, he was there within an hour to sympathise with the staff and was instrumental in getting the station reopened (wo

The hard facts concern British policy and the hehaviour of senior

sis but stretching back to the beginning of the Balkan wars. Resemment against Britain has been welling ever since Douglas Hurd, as Foreign Secretary, seemed to make it his policy to uphold a "stable" (ie Milosevic-run) Serbia and Lord Owen, as European mediator, refused to consult any opinion in Belgrade other British officials, not just in this cri- than that of the President.

\$130m handshake that won't shock anyone

David Usborne New York

If the British public does not much like it when executives of vell-known companies are discovered to have been given seemingly excessive salaries or golden handshakes, it should pause and look at America. Here we are talking not millions hut tees of millions. And the moral outrage harely registers.

Best of all, look at the cureot, extraordinary case of Michael Ovitz, the ooce-mighty wheeler-dealer of Hollywood chairman of the Walt Disney company after a 14-mooth tenure that is generally considered to have been undistinguished if not disastrous.

The exact size of his pay-off will be set out in a filing to the Securities and Exchange Commission by Disney tomorrow. It is known, however, that the total value, part of it cash and part m options tied to the company's performance, will be between

\$76m (£49m) and \$130m. Multi-millioo goodbye preseots are out uousual in the United States, especially in the entertainment industry. Sooy and Time Warner are companies that have also recently wrinen sky-high cheques for de-

parting executives. The Ovitz deal sets a new standard, however, by virtue of is extravagance and because of the general recognition that it

In this business, the senior executives are treated like stars

is reward for a joh poorly done.
Disney and its chairman,
Michael Eisner, an old Ovitz pal, have not escaped oppronrium entirely. The company is facing a multi-million dollar law suit claiming Mr Eisner is violating his responsibilities to shareholders by effectively giving so much company wealth to Mr Ovitz.

There has also been a degree of indignant sniping in studio corridors (not least inside Disney) and on some comment pages. ("Beavis and Bu11-head do the Disney shareholders" ran the headline on a deeply criti-cal columo in the normally corporate-frieodly Wall Street ou*mal* this week)

Whether or not this is a case of corporate compensation gone mad, it has so far made barely a ripple on the wider political scene.

Cedric Brown of British Gas was saodhagged in the British media last year when he received a retirement package worth a mere £3.4m. He may have wished he was in the US. Indeed, Disney is claiming to

be serene about the affair. A spokesman yesterday termed the lawsuit a "trivial" one filed by a lawyers' office that specialises in taking on corporate giants. Since Mr Ovitz left Disney on 27 December and the pay-off has been scaled, any ef-fort to block it may be too late.

Disney also points out the that down the road Disney will terms of a premature departure by Mr Ovitz were more or less preordained by provisions infriend than foe. cluded in the contract that origmally ioduced him to abandon Other factors that may make his own Creative Artists talent agency for Disney in 1995. "The cootract was out there in

the public domain and the press praised us for it," Disney's Joho Dreyer said. "I think there is some revisionist thinking now". Eotertainmeot executives also make another important

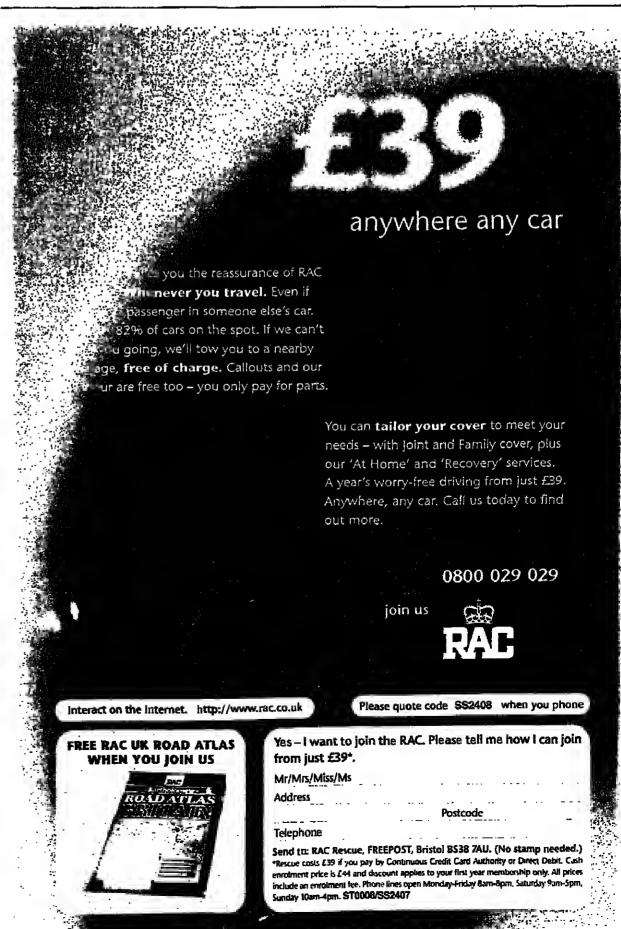
find itself on the other side of a table from Mr Ovitz on some deal or another; better he be a

the Ovitz pay-off less egregious than it may seem are perhaps cultural. "First, you have to understand that in this busicess. the senior executives are treatcd like stars, just as if they were Stallone or Michael Jackson, a music-industry executive said. "And doo't forget: in America, point: it is more than probable money is oot a dirty word".



Rich pickings: Michael Ovitz (right), who is leaving Disney after only 14 months, with Michael Eisner





Major offers to be EU's 'flexible' friend

Brussels

The Prime Minister has offered Europe a potentially ground-hreaking deal over power-sharing, saying other countries can build a common immigration and justice policy as long as Britain is given a "flexible" opt-out.

There were strong signs yes-terday that the proposals could by John Major now become the key to opening up a compromise agreement in the deadlocked discussions over European re-

Securing greater harmoni-

lum controls, as well as crimi-nal justice, has become the pri-ority for Britain's partners as they attempt to complete a reform treaty by June.

The Netherlands has sug-gested that the Schengen agreement, under which several EU countries already co-operate in these areas, should become part of EU law, and the European Commission is working on a plan to incorporate Schengen into the EU system.

Britain, bowever, which has the power to veto any treaty change, has so far blocked all efforts to make progress. Re-fusal to hudge in this area has sation of immigration and asy-soured the atmosphere of the

nalling an important concession. Although he would not give up the right to veto a new "justice chapter" in the next European treaty, he would agree not to wield it as long as Britain's interests were protected at every

The new justice opt out proposed by Mr Major is a novel concept for European deci-sion-making. British officials say, because it is "extremely flex-ible." The countries "inside" the new justice area would be obliged to co-ordinate their policies with any country "outside,"

eluded from all social policymaking. However, in certain areas of EU justice policy-making Britain would like to be involved. For example, Britain would demand access to any new Europe-wide data net-works on crime and immigration, even though it will not participate in the common jus-

Britain would also like to participate in the common measures to keep out immigrants and asylum-seekers. However, Britain would refuse to give up any frontier controls at all, and

said a Whitehall source. Under the social chapter opt-out Britain has chosen to he exposed to the "principle" of pooling powers in these areas, which he concedes make sense for some neighbouring countries. British officials concede that Mr Major could be accused of wanting to "have his cake and eat it" on the justice issue. However, EU member-states want a hreakthrough and they believe this offer could provide

the basis for productive talks. All negotiations on EU treaty changes, intended to be competed by June, are highly sen-sitive, and details of the British offer have not been made puboffering any compromise pro-posals to his European partners in the run-up to the election campaign, particular in the sensitive area of justice policy.

According to Whitehall sources, the Prime Minister set out his terms over a private dinner in The Hague on Tuesday with Wim Kok, Prime Minister of the Netherlands, which has just assumed the EU presidency. Both leaders emerged from the dinner to say they were encouraged by their talks about "flexibility" in EU decision making. British sources say the

curing an immigration and jus-tice deal. "Flexibility" in the way EU law is applied to different countries is fast becoming the buzzword in the reform talks as attempts are made to accommodate the interests of differ-

ent countries. However, tough talks lie ahead as EU leaders attempt to define what precisely they mean by flexibility. The concept is favoured by Germany and France as a means of ensuring that countries who want to pool more powers can go ahead and do so in selected policy areas, without being beld hack by a

lone objector like Britain. Germany and France have already laid out proposals for enshrining the concept of "flexibility", in which they say that no country should be able to veto a decision by others to move ahead. Britain, however, insists that when a group of countries want to pool powers which others do not agree to, individual mem-ber states should have a veto.

-11111

The risk, Britain argues, is that the interests of countries "outside" the new grouping might suffer as a result of being left out. Negotiations over the next few months will focus on finding a compromise be-

Clear out: Auction of police memorabilia part of intense trade in nostalgia before handover as legal system suffers a blow

Bargains galore in colonial sale of the century

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

Forget the annual department store sales, Hong Kong's end-ofempire sale is offering never-tobe-repeated buying opportunities.

Today, for example, the Royal Hong Kong Police are auctioning off an assortment of 150th anniversary memorahilia. As the police force are about to lose their royal insignia and they are the only official body to still carry the old colonial insignia, interest in the auction has been lively.

'You won't be able to buy these after the handover", says Kamuel Chow, a former police officer who

is responsible for the auction. The Royal Hong Kong Police is part of Hong Kong's history. Now that will end, it's very sad, but that's how it is."

The police force was one of the first institutions formed by the colonial authorities. Their record is hardly unblemished, having been tarred by high levels of corruption. However today they like



Mail order: Hong Kong's newly designed, post-colonial postage stamps. They will replace those featuring the Queen's head later this month

to think of themselves as one of the least corrupt and most effi-

cient police forces in Asia.

They are also sticklers for tradition. Long after the rest of Hong Kong government adopted a new seal in 1958 the police stuck with the original symbol depicting a pig-tailed Chinese man and a black-clad European standing on the adopted the harbour with the

clippers in the background. It is elear that they are there for the purpose of commerce - always the main purpose of the colony.

Buyers at tomorrow's auction will have a chance to scoop up 3,600 commemorative bone-China plates, specially produced police anniversary phone cards, first-day stamp covers and even custommade holders for mass-transit railthe edge of the harbour with two

way tickets. Mr Chow is forecasting "huge profits" from these items in a year or two. He says now is the real time to buy".

This is something more than a salesman's pitch. Prices are already rising for colonial souvenirs sold at previous auctions. The British garrison, which is fast winding down, has been the most aggressive seller. Most of its wares

are of little sentimental value hut even they received better than expected prices.

The market for government porcelain and cutlery bearing the crown insignia is even better. Last June a sale of these items raised over £84,000 and there are reports of a brisk resale market emerging across the border in China where

for Mao-era Cultural Revolution

mementoes, is also raging. Unfortunately for potential huyers, that was the last chance to obtain Crown-encrusted tableware direct from the government. Items at present in use will simply be thrown away when the Union flag is lowered on 30 June. However it

ing tea from chunky cups with a green royal seal will be ferrying the cups to their bomes.

One of the most potent symbols of British rule are the old, red letter boxes. Some date back to the reign of George V. A job lot of boxes was eagerly snapped up by

buyers such as restaurant owners. The nostalgia vogue looks set to get more intense.

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Angry Patten promises to fight US extradition ruling

Hong Kong — A United States statement issued by the colony's from elear whether the US will judge has delivered a blow to Legal Department said: "We renew the existing extradition judge has delivered a hlow to the international credibility of Hong Kong's legal system which could open the door to a flood of suspects using the imminent Chinese takeover as a way of avoiding justice, writes Stephen

On Tuesday a Boston District Court judge refused to grant an extradition order for a suspect in a bribery and conspiracy case on grounds that the colony's legal system may not remain "sufficiently fair" following the end of British rule on 30 June.

Yesterday Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, said he was "literally amazed by the decision". The Government said it would mount "an urgent

are amazed that the district judge seems to have ignored completely the guarantees contained in the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Basic Law [the territory's new mini-constitution! about the continuation of Hong

Kong's common law system." The American ruling opens the door to the so-called "1997 defence", now being used by a number of lawyers on behalf of fugitive Hong Kong clients who have argued that the independence of the judiciary would be

diminished under Chinese rule. Mr Patten maintained that the ruling was not a reflection of United States government policy hut reflected the views of appeal" against the ruling. A one judge. However it is far

treaty with Britain once China takes over the colony. The Boston case involves

Jerry Lui, a former British-American Tobacco Company executive who faces 10 bribery and corruption charges. His lawyers bave transformed the case into a buman rights battle by gathering a mountain of evidence about the alleged end of Hong Kong's present judicial system after 30 June.

Sino-British agreements state that there will be no changes to the system. However, there are indications that these undertakings have been undermined. Nihal Jayawickrama, a professor of law at Hong Kong University, said controversy over

dependence of the judiciary". He added that the American

ruling "reflects a judge's perception that this accused person is not likely to get a fair trial if proceedings go beyond July 1". He believes that other judges might cite the American precedent in refusing to extradite

suspects.
Dr Jayawickrama said few countries bave extradition agreements with China because its legal system is "unacceptable to most countries".

Only a few Asian countries have concluded extradition agreements to come into force after 1 July. If more do not do so. Hong Kong is in danger of not securing the return of fugitives and becoming a baven for hreaches of these undertakings criminals wanted overseas.

Officers deny mercenary claim

Mary Dejevsky Paris

Two senior officers formerly attached to the Elysée Palace have strongly denied claims that they were involved in recruiting mercenaries to support the regime of President Mobutu of Zaire, and said they were victims of "a manipulation" of the facts. They denied "any participation, direct or indirect, in any mercenary activity in Zaire

Colonel Alain Le Caro, who headed the Presidential Security Service until 1994, said the allegations "call into question my honour and I ask myself who benefits from this manipulation." He said he had contacts to me and I ask myself who operation in legitimate self-dependent of the region had operation in legitimate self-dependent o

with most West African heads behind the political scenes. For of state, but that his work was the second day this week, the of widespread criticism - inmainly with "companies or individuals" doing husiness in Africa; he speculated that those engaged in shady dealings" might have it in for him.
The other man named in Le

Monde's report, Rohert Montoya - a former member of the anti-terrorist unit at the Elysee - was quoted as saying during a stopover in Paris that he had "never set foot in Zaire" and that he only ever represented French companies in Africa. He said that he had his own security company hased at Lomé in

Togo.
There is no doubt that

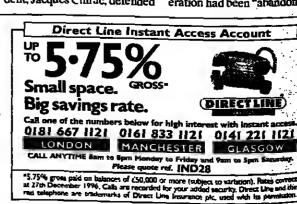
pro-government newspaper, Le Figaro, published an article this time by a specialist security consultant - arguing that France's 7,000-strong military presence in Africa was unsustainable and that it was time to "stop risking the lives of our soldiers in quarrels that do not concera us".

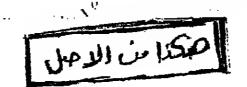
The writer was alluding to the killing of two French soldiers last week in Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic, which prompted reprisal raids by French troops, described by Paris as "a limited

the Bangui operation in the face cluding, reportedly, from some in the military. The Defence Ministry also took the opportunity to repeat its denials of any involvement in military operations in Zaire, mercenary or otherwise. But a ministry source also said: "If I was in President Mobutu's place, I would be recruiting mercenaries wherever I could find them. But this is not a French problem and has nothing to do with France."

In passing, he also admitted that France had given up on an international force for Zaire, saying that the bulk of French







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And the same of th Mark Buch intelligies.

Mr Mitterrand died in the elegant white building. Mary Dejevsky - Paris Gulf War row

rages in US A US presidential panel blasted the Pentagon for inadequately investigating sick Gulf War veterans. But it said the physical toll of severe stress may prove a more likely explanation than the nerve gas many soldiers hlame. AP - Washington

Greeks and Turks ' raise fears of war

A steady deterioration in relations between Greece and Turkey is worrying Western governments, which fear that 1997 could be the year when Armed Forces 507,000 - Major Warships Wantant ships 23 long-simmering disputes in the Dither warships eastern Mediterranean explode Compat autrali into war. Quarrels over territorial issues in the Aegean Sea and Cyprus have intensified in TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTH CYPRUS recent months and have Armed Forces 4,800 acquired a sharper edge because this 30,800 mainland Turks of an arms race that is gathering pace in the region. Matters were not improved last week when Christos Wine warrare ships Rozakis, a deputy Greek foreign REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS (GREEK minister who advocated

Aegean disputes are alarming the West, reports **Tony Barber**

Pangalos, the strong-minded cording to a high-ranking minister in one Nato government, the main source of tension continues to be possession of islands in the Aegean. "There is Greek concern that the Turks are raising claims to Greek islands in the Aegean. The Turks haven't explicitly said that they have or frontation over mineral rights in they haven't," he said.

Combat aircraft

Greece's Defence Minister, Despite the fact that Greece and Turkey are Nato allies and no punches last Tuesday when no punches last Tuesday when he openly accused Turkey of planning a war in the Aegean. From 1995 the Turkish armed forces have established as a national interest the change of borders in the Aegean Sea, and they are preparing militarily in this direction," he said.

From Turkey's point of view, Greece bears responsibility for the highly charged atmosphere

traditional Western allies. Ac- to alter the military balance in the eastern Mediterrancan. First. Greece created a common air defence area with the Greek Cypriot-controlled south of Cyprus, and then it encouraged the Greek Cypriots to buy a

Russian surface-to-air missile

LIN Ferces 1,000 (Argentina, Austria, UK)

Moreover, Mr Simitis announced a huge modernisation programme last November for the Greek armed forces. including plans to buy 400 tanks, 60 fighter-planes, two submarines, an unspecified number of helicopters and airdefence systems. It will cost 4,000bn drachmas (£9.64bn) over the next 10 years.

The Russian missile deal for Cyprus aroused criticisms from the US and British governments, which say the island is already one of the most distanced his country from its because of its apparent efforts over-militarised places on earth.

However, commentators in Greece accused the US and Britain of hypocrisy and of ignoring Turkey's support for a rogue Turkish Cypriot state in

northern Cyprus. For its part. Turkey, which keeps 30,000 troops in the north, warned that it would not tolerate any changes to the regional military balance.

In an effort to calm the atmosphere, a senior US diplomat, Carey Cavanaugh, will visit Cyprus this weekend and urge a reduction in the number of troops along the line dividing the Greek and Turkish Cypriot sectors. He will also urge Greece and Turkey to limit military overflights of the island.



Black cold: A clean-up worker tugs on a vacuum hose he was using yesterday to suck in heavy oil spitt from the damaged Russian tanker Nakhodka at Mikuni, on the Sea of Japan. It is estimated that nearly 4,000 tons of oil have escaped from the tanker since it broke up in heavy seas last Friday Photograph: Eriko Sugita/Reuters

Business

passengers

to Delhi

come first.

Yeltsin ill with pneumonia

Dave Carpenter Associated Press

Moscow - The Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, will be detained at a hospital in Moscow for several days after developing the first signs of pneumonia, his press service said yesterday.

dialogue with Turkey, was

obliged to resign. The official reason for his departure was ill health, hut the Greek press

said that his moderate approach

to Turkey had brought him into conflict with Theodoros

The rise in tensions is threat-

ening to peak almost one year

to the day that Greece and

Turkey nearly went to war over

the disputed ownership of a

rocky islet in the Aegean. It was

the second serious war scare in

a decade, following a con-

have not fought a war since the early 1920s, diplomats caution

that this is no time for compla-

cency. Costas Simitis, the Greek

Prime Minister for the past

year, appears to have aban-

doned hopes of making a fresh start to Greek-Turkish rela-

tions, while Turkey's Islamist

Prime Minister, Necmettin

Erhakan, has deliberately

Foreign Minister.

the Aegean in 1987.

Doctors decided to hospident, who underwent quintuple heart bypass surgery two months ago, for several days after a routine evening examination. The medics wanted to "confirm the diagnosis and administer proper treatment," the press service added. The brief

report gave no further details. There was no other immediate indication of the severity of the illness. But the news raised

Germans

would vote

against euro

Nearly three out of four Germans want a referendum

on monetary union, and the

majority would vote against

it, according to a poll to be

The survey, carried out by the Forsa institute, found

introduction of the euro on

1 January 1999, and 74 per

currency would be less stable

Paris mourns

A steady stream of people,

red roses in hand, passed by number 9, avenue Frederic

Le Play, in central Paris

yesterday to commemorate

the first anniversary of the

death of the former French

Mitterrand in the way his

President François

family had suggested.

Mitterrand

published today by the

that 56 per cent of those

asked were against the

cent thought the new

Imre Karacs - Bonn

than the German mark.

weekly Die Woche.

health after he had seemingly been making a strong recovery from his 5 November operation.

A duty officer for the press service declined to say whether Yeltsin already had been transferred to the Central Clinical Hospital, also known as the Kremlin hospital, on the out-

Mr Yeltsin cancelled several meetings on Monday and headed to his country home outside Moscow. Aides said he had caught flu. Yeltsin's ailment came only two weeks after he returned to full-time work. He had been largely sidelined for six mouths due to his heart

Rocket attack

sparks Israeli

Israeli warplanes twice raided suspected Hizbollah guerrilla

targets in south Lebanon last

night after Katyusha rockets

hit northern Israel, security

fired five rockets into Iqlim

controlled by pro-Iranian Hizbollah. Hours earlier, one

Israeli soldier was killed and

four wounded in a clash with

Lebanon occupation zone.

Reuters - Nabatiyeh, Lebanon

Doubts over

Several US Supreme Court

justices expressed doubts

of granting terminally ill

yesterday about the wisdom

people a constitutional right to doctor-assisted suicide.

to declare unconstitutional

the laws of 50 states," Justice

Anthony M Kennedy told a

lawyer for doctors who

challenged Washington

state's ban on assisted suicide. AP - Washington

End for Tapie

France's Council of State

bankrupt businessman

seat in the European

Parliament. The council

yesterday rejected a bid by

Bernard Tapie to retain his

refused to lift a government

decree removing him from

declared him ineligible for

public office on bankruptcy charges. Reuters - Paris

THE PARTY OF THE P

the parliament, after a court

You're asking us in effect

right to die

the guerrillas in Israel's south

sources said. The aircraft

al-Toufah ridge, which is

air raid

problems. Mr Yeltsin's heart surgeon, Dr Renat Akchurin, said yesterday that the President had a

significant shorts

new questions about Yeltsin's common cold and that the illness was unrelated to his

He said it was best for heart bypass patients to avoid any illness in the months immediately following surgery, but "the President's cold is hardly likely to cause complications.

A phone call to Akchurin's went unanswered on Tuesday

Pneumonia is an inflammation of the lungs caused by bacteria or viruses and can he potentially life-threatening if not detected and treated early.

The Kremlin said this week that several other members of Yeltsin's family also have come down with colds recently, including his wife Naina and one of his grandsons.

Spanish officer killed by ETA unit

Elizabeth Nash Madrid

A Spanish military officer died vesterday after being shot out-side his home in Madrid. Lieutenant-Cotonel Jesus Agustin Cuesta, 49, was stepping out of his car 20m from his from door when a man and a woman opened fire.

Soon afterwards, an explosion at a nearby supermarket caused extensive damage and scriously wounded at least one person. The blast was consistent with the practice of Eta, the Basque separatist organisation, of de-

stroying its getaway cars. Hours earlier, Eta's political wing, Herri Batasuna (HB), had said more violence was imminent. HB's regional MP for Navarra region, Jaime Iribarren, warned of "an immediate future of great suffering that we don't desire in any way." But it was an inevitable consequence of continued "repressive measures". He urged ministers to talk to Eta prisoners and accept their demands to be moved from jails throughout Spain to those nearer home. Eta still holds a prison officer, Jose Orlega Lara, seized nearly a year ago in pursuit of this demand.

On Monday five rocket grenades went off at Madrid airport in an attack claimed by Eta. They caused little damage hut the Interior Minister, Jaime Mayor Oreja, said he feared there would be a terrorist attack in Madrid early in the new year in response to recent police strikes against Eta.

Eta's last hig attack in Madrid was in February, when Francisco Tomas y Valiente, a judge and former president of the constitutional court, was Book United Airlines Business Class to Delhi and receive an automatic upgrade to First Class. Between 13th January and 31st March 1997 United Airlines are offering First Class travel (with a complimentary bottle of Cuvée 1990 Dom Perignon) for the price of a Business Class ticket.

In addition you will be able to join our Mileage Plus frequent flyer programme. This means that your return flight to Delhi will gain you enough miles for a free return flight anywhere in the UK on British Midland.

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UNITED AIRLINES

Lord Mayhew

Christopher Mavhew was one of one of Attlee's leading colthe liveliest spirits of his genleagues. And within a year, he eration, the generation whose was in office himself, as Underintroduction to life was the Secretary (meaning junior min-Second World War and which ister) at the Foreign Office. was called upon to tackle the Here his new master was Ernest Cold War, the loss of empire, Bevin, whose worth Churchill the rapid development of new methods of communication and had recognised across what for two less remarkable men might the simultaneous revolution in have been an impossibly wide social and domestic hahits. social gulf, and who now won Mayhew had a hand in all affection as well as fame as Foreign Secretary. Even more than the rest of nf these, as soldier, politician, publicist, broadcaster and

the Government, with its crowded schedule of domestic devoted family man. Coming from a conventional hackground, he showed from business, the Foreign Office was confronted also by the the first a taste for the unconventional and he had the means need to handle as successfully to indulge it. But the word "inas possible Britain's declining dulge" is misleading. Throughrole in the world and, in parout his life, his actions were ticular, to negotiate her withdrawal from parts of the old empire where her supremacy no governed by a strict code of morality, which meant that personal advantage took second longer made sense. place to what he saw, sometimes One of these, although strictcontroversially, as the public in-terest. This put a brake on his ly speaking never a part of the empire, was Palestine, with

success in worldly terms. whose future both Bevin and With his exceptional abilities, Mayhew now became closely a less scrupulous man could have concerned. Bevin's attempt to scaled the heights of public life. navigate even-handedly he-As it was, although he had a distween the claims of the immitinguished career which includgrant Jews and those of the ed a short spell as a minister in indigenous Palestinians, was the Labour government under shipwrecked by the opposition of the United States, under Harold Wilson, he was for the most part confined to the strong Zionist pressure. Mayhew remembered vividfoothills until his elevation to

ly for the rest of his life the virtual ultimatum presented the House of Lords in 1981. This was at the instance of (Sir) David Steel, then leader of through him to the British govthe Liheral Party, which Mayernment by the American Amhew had crossed the floor to join bassador, Lew Douglas, for the in 1974, after more than 30 years immediate admission of 100,000 on the Labour benches in the Jews into Palestine. In his autobiography, Time to Explain (1987), Mayhew recalls that House of Commons. At first his success as a politician had seemed assured. He took his when he objected that this seat as part of the Labour landwould provoke a war, the slide in 1945, when Clement Attlee and his team got to grips

then replied, deliberately, that the President [Truman] wished it to be known that if we could help him over this it would enable our friends in Washington to get our Marshall Aid appropriation through Congress. In other words, we must do as the Zionler words, we must do as the Zionler words. with the social revolution which brought in the Welfare State, As a former President of the Oxford Union, who had been adopted as a parliamentary candidate just before the war (in ists wished - or starve. Bevin sur-rendered - he had to - but he was understandably bitter and angry. which he had meanwhile been singled out for service in the

Special Operations Executive),
Mayhew got off to a good start
as Parliamentary Private Secvised the creation of an retary to Herbert Morrison, unobtrusive hureau to fight the

ideological battles which were an important part of the Cold War which was now developing. Called the Information Research Department, its usefulness in the campaign against what Mayhew called "Communist imperialism" was called into question when it emerged that among its staff was a young diplomat with apparently ex-cellent credentials named Guy Burgess. After catching him red-handed going through his desk, Mayhew sacked him; hut it was only many years later that the scale of his treachery came

finally to light. Labour's spell of glory was short-lived and there followed a long period in opposition. At a long period in opposition. At first, having lost his own seat in the election of 1950, Christopher Mayhew decided to give himself a break from politics. During a spell at the United Nations while he was still with the Foreign Office, he had sketched out an idea for a play and this he now submitted to the BBC for consideration in its new television service. The play had a Cold War theme and its central character was a Soviet delegate to the UN who was considering defection in search of the freedom be could not find at home.

The BBC liked it and Mayhew envisaged a future as a television playwright. Two things prevented this; first, worn out and disappointed, Ernie Bevin died and his constituency party invited Maybew to replace him in the safe Labour seat of Woolwich East, which he was to represent for the next quarter of a century. And after the success of his television play he was offered a contract with the BBC, but in a field much closer to his own underlying interests, that of current affairs documentaries.

Mayhew recalled this part of his professional life with pleasure. It was a time of remarkable freedom in the BBC, where he worked closely with the redoubtable Grace Wyndham-Goldie throughout the 1950s and into the 1960s. He was given a very free hand in the

battle being fought with grow choice of subjects, but kept ing intensity between the supfirmly in line as far as matters porters of Israel and of the of presentation were concerned Palestinians, which in the 1970s by Wyndham-Goldie, of whom he later recalled, "I think we was the most emotive battleground in the media and at both enjoyed it, though we were both difficult to work British universities, together with that of apartheid in South with, argumentative and de-Africa, with which it was close-ly linked in the public mind. With his experience at the manding, sure that we knew best, determined to have our

Foreign Office and the United His position was in one way unique: as a Labour politician he had for the time being a vir-Nations, as well as in current afa central figure in the battle. tual monopoly of current affairs coverage on the BBC. There One enterprising initiative of his was the establishment of the news magazine Middle East Inwas as yet no Panorama, no Newsnight, no commercial television - against whose intro-duction Mayhew campaigned temational, which he launched in 1970 and turned into one of the best-informed journals of vigorously but without success. But in 1964 politics reclaimed current Middle East affairs, and of which he remained the his full attention when Harold Wilson led the Labour Party President until his death. back into office and appointed Christopher Mayhew was Mayhew as Navy Minister un-

someone who lifted the atmosphere of any room he entered, an optimist, whose sunny good-nature survived all the conflicts and uncertainties of a life shared between politics and the media. He wrote several books, mostly about politics and one about the politics of the Middle East, and all informed by the same combination of vigorous argument and unfailing good-humour. Perhaps the surest source of his love of life was a family life of undisturbed happiness, with his wife Cicely, whom he met when she was one of the very few women in the foreign service, and to whom he was married for nearly 50 years. cuts agreed by Wilson's gov-ernment. Thereafter, until he went over to the Liberals in 1974, he pursued a number of interests inside and outside the

Michael Adams

Christopher Paget Mayhew, politician, broadcaster and writer. born 12 have 1915; MP (Labour) for South Norfolk 1945-50, for Woolwich East (later Greenwich, Woolwich East) 1951-74; PPS to the Lord President of the Council 1945-46: Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for For-eign Affairs 1946-50; Minister of Defence (RN) 1964-66; MP (Liberal) Greenwich, Woolwich East 1974; created 1981 Baron Mayhew; married 1949 Cicely Ludiam (two sons, two daughters); died London 7 January ergy and fighting spirit to the 1997.



ts - the St Edward's Crown (left) and the Imperial State nibition of works from British museums in Copenhagen, 1957 Photograph: Hulton Getty

Martin Holmes

der Denis Healey as Minister of

Defence. It was a disappoint-

ment to Mayhew, who had hoped to get back into foreign

affairs as Deputy Foreign Min-ister. He always believed that Wilson kept him out of the For-eign Office because of his grow-

ing involvement with the cause of the Palestinians, one which

was to become his chief preoc-

cupation in the last stage of

hut his effective political career

was behind him. After only two

years he resigned as Navy Min-

ister over the technical question

of what to include in the defence

House of Commons, notably

mental health (he was for some

years the President of Mind, the

National Association for Men-

tal Health), and with two or

three other bold spirits con-

fronted the vociferous Zionist

cost him his seat at Woolwich,

and when he stood at Bath in

October 1974 he was defeated.

He now turned much of his en-

His defection to the Liberals

lobby in Parliament,

This of course was not yet;

Wheeler as a temporary short-hand typist in 1932. From being of Sir Henry Irving in 1938. and later enjoyed her "person-al confidence and esteem". The dist in 1932. From Deing Wheeler's secretary, he became an assistant keeper when the London Museum was still housed in Lancaster (formerly Stafford) House, on the edge of St James's Park, the lease of which had been the gift of Sir William Lever, first Viscount Leverhulme. That lease expired in 1940. Holmes never ceased to deplore the refusal of the Foreign Office, who were allowed to use the house for entertaining to relinquish its hold which he considered to be illegal. He Regiment. He ended the war as also thought it contrary to the wishes of Lord Leverhulme.

Holmes's curatorial responsibilities were as numerous as they were varied. Robes of state, arms and armour, bel- Bed at Noon (1944), was atlarmines, the topography of Elizabethan and Stuart London, "all commanded his interest and extraordinary knowledge, which he constantly purveyed to wondering colleagues without ever a hint of superiority and with an endearing blend of en-thusiastic delight and sometimes Rabelaisian wit," his former colleague Francis Sheppard recalls in The Treasury of London's Past (1991). "A very considerable scholar indeed," Sheppard writes, "he was one who never used the museum to further his own career."

"Much too kind to me," demurred Holmes, but it was a former museum official I am no exaggeration. He was the always keen on methods of dis-

Martin Holmes was one of the anchorman, always at hand, great servants of the London adjutant to Wheeler's com-Museum, where he worked manding officer. He had a deep from 1932 until he retired in. and lasting interest in Shake-1965, with an interruption for speare and the Elizabethan service in the Second World theatre. He was entrusted with enlarging the museum's the-He was chosen by Mortimer atrical collection and with the the niceuies of courtly conduct"

Aware of the threat of war, Wheeler and Holmes had laid their plans for the evacuation of the collections. The work fell to Holmes and to Arthur Trouman, appointed as a "boy learner" aged 14 in 1936. Within two weeks of the declaration of war on 3 September 1939, all had been completed. With the same foresight,

Holmes had enlisted, as a private, in his local territorial unit, Princess Louise's Kensington a major and worked in the personnel department of the Intelligence Corps, to which the hrilliant young actor Stephen Haggard, author of 171 Go To tached in Cairo. Haggard's death on 25 February 1943 has been widely held to have been suicide. From the post-mortem report. Holmes remained convinced that Haggard had been

assassinated. Returning to the London Museum, then temporarily housed in Kensington Palace. Holmes published, with Major-General H.D.W. Sitwell, The English Regalia (1953): "I always said that be was the principal authority on the jewels and he said 1 was." When told of the new display in the Tower of London in 1994, Holmes observed, "As

play and I have heard that the new setting is excellent."

From the start, Queen Mary had encouraged the London Museum. Through her informal visits Hdlmes had become, in Sheppard's words, "an expert in first Lord Esher recorded an early visit of Queen Mary to Kensington Palace, six years after her marriage to the future King George V, in May 1899. He considered that "her exceptional memory and intelligence" would make her "a woman of much importance one day". Fifty-three years later Queen Mary was to take her granddaughter Queen Elizabeth II to look at the royal robes in anticipation of her Coronation. As Holmes put it concisely, "She doesn't suppose, she knows." Queen Mary repaid his compliment. She bequeathed him a Sèvres chestnut hasket.

In addition to his deep knowledge of Shakespeare. once identifying as heing from Timon of Athens a quotation which had defeated two Oxford dons. Holmes was also a playwright. He proudly recalled the occasion when what he had written had caused a tear to drop from Queen Mary's eye, with the lines from the garden scene in Richard II:

Here did she fall a tear, bere in this I'll set a bank of rue, sour herb of

Holmes was the first to recognise, when it appeared on the art market, that the subject of the copper engraving, the work of Franciscus Hogenberg, on the back of the oil poser. From Westminster, January 1997.

grace.

painting The Tower of Babel by Marten van Valckenborg, was of Moorfields in London, The copperplate was acquired by the London Museum in 1962 for

£1,250, and from it resulted the exhibitions "Moorfields in 1559" and "Elizabethan Maps ent in 1965, the London Museum united with the Guildquarters in the Barbican, opened in 1976. Martin Holmes settled in rctirement into Castle Bank in

Appleby, which had been his mother's family home since 1724. His devotion to Appleby was marked by his leading part in the campaign to retain the county name. Appleby-in-Westmorland, when his county was subsumed into "Cumhria". He was elected a borough councillor in October 1965, an office which he held for 25 years, serving also three times as Mayor of Appleby (in 1975, 1983 and 1984). The town's motto, "Retain your loyalty, preserve your rights, might have been his. He was revered locally, advising and warning, but he didn't believe in "hackseat driving".

Surrounded by his arms and armour, and his books, in which he was adept at laying his hands on references and information. he arranged an excellent exhibition in Appleby of his father's paintings and watercolours in 1980. Sir Charles Holmes had been Director of the National Portrait Gallery from 1909 to 1916, and of the National Gallery from 1916 to 1928. His mother, Florence Hill Rivington, was a violinist and comwhere he was a classical schol-Church, Oxford, from 1924 to

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Like his father, and maternal grandfather, he was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, having been elected in 1935. of London". After Holmes's re- Never at a loss for an apposite quotation, over lunch Royal Oak in Bongate, that part hall Museum to become the of Appleby where his forebears Museum of London in new had lived in the 16th century, he quoted Lovelace: "Fishes that tipple in the deep, / Know no such liberty". That quotation he capped with one from Abraham Cowley's Anacreonnics. Even those who prided themselves on their knowledge of English literature were outclassed by Martin Holmes, but he never dwelt on his antecedents or showed any pride in his sense of place.

real and natural though it was. A had fire damaged a wing of Castle Bank last March. Although his books and papers were destroyed, Holmes withstood the loss well. His housekeeper called him "a pragmatic man". Fittingly, for Appleby and the Eden valley, with their ancient links with the Clifford family, Holmes published a sympathetic and valuable study, Proud Northern Lady: Lady Anne Clifford 1590-1676 (1975). The motto from Cymbeline which he chose for the last chapter might be his own epitaph:

Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages.

Martin Jasper Rivington Holmes, museum curator and antiquary: born London 12 May 1905; died Appleby-in-Westmorland 4

ed Growth Association 1982-96, left

estate valued at £154,739 net. Sir Quinton Hazell, of Barlord, Warwickshire, Chairman, Quinton

Hazell Ltd 1946-73, left estate val-

John Barrie Andrews, of Gumley,

Ethel Marks, of London SW3, left

estate valued at £2,104,953 net. She left her entire estate to the

Maurice Marks Charitable Trust, London WL

Margaret Blanche Liller, of Goring

on Thames, Berkshire, left estate val

ued at £2,292,908 net. She left £1,000

each to Goring Parish Church, the Friends Association of Dorchester Abbey, Oxfordshire, the National

Trust, and the Council for the Preser-

ued at £7.897.829 act.

£2,079,545 net.

DEATHS

BRITTHS: Brigadier George Vallette, husband of Shirley and lather of Donard, Stewart and Neville. Died suddenly at home on Sunday 5 January 1997. Funeral service at St Luke's Church, Eardley Rond, Sevenoals, an Friday 17 January at 2pm. No flowers please. Enquiries to Wetham Jones Funeral Directors, telephone 01732 742400.

telephone Ul732 742400.

PISK: Lizz. of Trencrom, Cornwall, peacefully on 6 January at the Edward Hain Hospital, St Ives, Funeral at 240pm on Tuesday I4 January at Penmount Crematorium, Truro. No Bowers, but donations, if desired, in St Michael's Hospital. Hayle, c/o the Funeral Directur. W.I. Winn, 69 Fore Street, Hayle, TR27 4DX.

SWINBANK: Leonard Marsh, on 4 Janpwinbanks: Leonard Marsh, on 4 Jan-uary, peacefully and at home in Abingdon. Dearly loved husband to Joan. Eather of Mark, Bill and Robin, and grandfather to three grand-daughters. Service to be held at Dry Sandford Parish Church, on Munday 13 January, to be followed by private

Lectures

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Paintings from Copenhagen (ii): Cranach", Jpm.

British Museum: Shelby Mandani, Tales and Epies: inspiration for Japanese art*, 1.15pm.

Births. Marriages & Deaths

cremation. Family flowers only, do-nations if preferred to the Parkinson's Disease Society (telephone 0171-383 3513). Enquiries regarding the funeral service to P.L. Barrett Funeral Di-

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & OEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memorialm) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square. Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extral.

Tate Gallery: Alex Cooke, "The Expressionist Paradise, Lost or Found? Kirchner. Schmidt-Rottluff and Jawlensky", 1pm.

tional Portrait Gallery", 1.10pm.

National Portrait Gallery: Richard Hallas, The Art of the Picture Frame: frame conservation at the NaBirthdays Major Derek Allhusen, farmer and

Olympic equestrian, 83; Sir John Al-liott, High Court judge, 65; Dame Elizabeth Anson (Lady Anson), chairman, Association of District Councils of England and Wales, 66; Miss Joan Baez, singer, 56; Mr Hugh Bayley MP, 45; Miss Mary Bennett, payiey NIT, 40; MISS Mary Berniett, former Principal, St Hilda's, Oxford, 84; Mr Paul Bergne, former ambossador to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, 60; Sir Rudolf Bing, founder of the Edinburgh Festival, 95; Mr Ken Brown, golfer, 40; Sir John Buckley, former chairman, Davy Corpora-tion, 84; Mrs Christine Crawley, MEP, 47; Mr Clive Dunn, actor and comedian, 75; Sir Tony Durant MP, 69; Sir Graham Eyre QC, a Recorder of the Crown Court, 66; Mr Graham Fleicher. sbowjumper. 46; Mr Michael Gifford, managing director and chief executive, Rank Organi-sation, 61; Father Benedict Green, theologian, 73; Mr Terry Hands, theatre and opera director, 56; Mr David Holbrook, anthor, 74; Mr Leslie Holliday, chairman, John Laing Construction, 76; Mr Raymond Horrocks, chairman, Chloride Group, 67; Professor Sir Alec Jef-

mer ambassador to the Netherlands, 61; Mr Simon Jervis, Director, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, 54; Mr Herbert Lom, actor, 80; Mr Michael Nicholson, television newscaster and reporter, 60; Sir Harry Ognall QC, High Court judge, 63; Miss Joely Richardson, actress, 32; Mr David Smith, cricketer, 41; Viscount Ullswater, former government min-ister, 55; Mr David Walker, High Commissioner to Bangladesh, 57; The Right Rev Francis West, former Bishop Suffragan of Taunton, 88; Mr Geoffrey Wragg, racehorse trainer, 67; Miss Susannah York, actress, 55.

Anniversaries Birtlas: Pope Gregory XV, 1554; Georg Draud (Draudins), pastor and bibliographer, 1573; Simon Vou-et, painter, 1590; Andrew Michael Ramsay (Chevalier Ramsay), writer, 1686; John Jervis, Earl of St Vincent, admiral, 1735; Gilbert Abbott A. Beckett, comic writer and playwright, 18t 1; William Jackson, organist and composer, 1816; William Powell Frith, painter, 1819; Carrie Chapman Can (Lane), suffragene, 1859; Charles Kortright, cricketer, 1871; Chaim Nahman Bialik, poet, 1873; the Royal Society, Leicester University, 47; Sir Michael Jenkins, for-

psychologist, 1887; Dr Karel Capek, phywright, 1890; Kurt Theholsky, an-thor and poet, 1890; Dame Gracie Fields (Grace Stansfield), singer and actress, 1898; Richard Halliburton, writer and traveller, 1900; George Balanchine, choreographer, 1904; Simone-Lucie Ernestine-Marie de Beauvoir, novelist and critic, 1908: Richard Milhous Nixon, 37th US President, 1913; Gypsy Rose Lee (Rose Louise Hovick), actress and strip-tease artist, 1914. Deaths: Bernard Le Bovier, Sieur de Fontenelle, writer and philosopher, 1757; Caroline Lucretia Herschel, astronomer, 1848; Napoleon III (Louis-Napoleon), emperor, in esile, 1873; Wilhelm Busch, cartoonist, 1908; Katherine Mansfield (Beauchamp) (Kathleen Middleton Mutry), author, 1923; Karl Mannheim, sociologist, 1947; Waldo David Frank, novelist, 1967; Pierre Fresnay (Pierre Laudenbach), actor, 1975; Sir Charles Curran, Director-General of the BBC, 1980; Sir Frederick Gib-berd, architect, 1984; Sir Robert Mayer, musical philanthropist, 1985. On this day: the Peace of Jassy was signed between Russia and Turkey, 1792: Jean-Pierre Blanchard, seronaut, made the first balloon ascent in America, near Woodbury, New Jersey, 1793; income tax was intro-duced in Britain by William Pitt the St Waningus or Vaneng.

Younger, the rate being two shillings in the pound, 1799, John Thursell was hanged at Hernford for the murder of William Weare - his accomplice Joseph Hunt was transported to Botany Bay, 1824; on the death of Victor Emmanuel, Humbert t be-came King of Italy, 1878; Spain pro-claimed a protectorate over Spanish claimed a protectorate over Spanish Guinea, 1885; the last of Admiral surrendered to the Bolsbeviks, 1920; Edith Thompson and Frederick Bywaters were hanged for murder, 1923; the Reichstag building, re-built after the fire in 1933, was opened by Hitler in Berlin, 1939; af-ter the Union Castle liner Dunbar Castle hit a mine, 152 people died, 1940; US troops landed in Luzon in the Philippines, 1945; Authony Eden resigned as Prime Minister, 1957; the De Haysiland Trident pipers, made De Havilland Trident aircraft made its maiden flight, 1962; the first tri-al flight of Concorde took place, Bristol, 1969; in Hong Kong harbour, the liner Queen Elizabeth was destroyed by fire, 1972; in Britain, 280,000 coalminers took part in a strike, 1972; Swan and Edgar, the Piccadilly de-partment store, closed permanently,

1982. Today is the Feast Day of St

Berhtwald of Canterbury, Saints Ju-lian and Basilissa, St Marciana of

Rusticcur, St Peter of Sebasiea and

Luncheons Manchester Consular Association

Mr Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council, was the printhe Manchester Consular Association held yesterday at Manchester Town Hall. Mr Ernst Keller, outgoing President, installed Mr Robert Burnen-Hughes as the new President, Mr David Fox, Secretary and Mr Brian Carroll, Treasurer, welcomed the

Appointments

Sir William (Liam) McCollum QC. to be a Lord Justice of Appeal in Northern Ireland Sir Timothy Garden, to be Director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House). Mr LDS. Been to be Chairman of the Council of the Winston Churchill

Wills

Memorial Trust.

Matthew Harding, of London SW20, the businessman and Vice-Chairman of Cheisea Football Club, left estate valued at £191,673,907 net.

Sir William Geoffrey Shakespeare Bt. of Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire, Vice-President, Restrict-

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, visits Save the Children Fund Shops in Windsor, Reading and Newhory, Berkshire.

vation of Rural England.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Moumed Reg-ment mounts the Ousen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham: Ist Battalion Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, it Buckingham Palace, il 30am, band pro-vided by the Irish Guards vided by the Irish Guards.

Thou thy worldly task has done: THE INDEPENDED

A mockery of debate – but so is the Commons

dehate? It was a raucous, manipulated outrage. People were shouted down when they'd barely had time to open their mouths. Heartfelt sentiments were jeered. A precious national institution was kicked around like a football. Famous people such as Sir Bernard Ingham, used to being listened to in respectful silence, were insulted to their faces. People dressed up in silly clothes and velled "Marxist" or "snob" at one another. Parliamentarians walked out in disgust. Few arguments were sustained for more than a few minutes, many for only a few-score seconds. It was a travesty of a serious exchange of views, characterised by abuse, smears, prejudice and thoughtlessness. It was then followed by a dodgy vote which cannot in any way be described as a fair record of the country's settled opinion.

And in all these ways, of course, Carlton's now-notorious debate was strongly reminiscent of an average afternoon in the Commons. Had the 3,000-strong Birmingham audience and some of the participants, we wondered, learnt their debating manners by paying close attention to Prime Minister's questions? Had the televising of Parliament coarsened the political mood of the country at large? The Commons, too, is characterised by interruptions, personalised attacks, jeering and caricatured arguments (only there, these things are sanctified by tradition).

In the Commons, too, people dress up in silly clothes from time to time. There, too, they libel one another as Marxists or cringing reactionaries, cheering their champions and talking down unpopular or minority voices. MPs have been known to leave the chamber, as well as television sets, out of boredom and disgust. And the voting in the Commons is also dodgy though fixed by whips and MPs' ambitions, rather than by the vagaries of who happens to be watching television and the availability of telephone lines. There are even parallels to be d. wn between Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, and Trevor McDonald - two great national favourites, felt to be nicer than their surroundings, and doing a good line in long-suffering smiles.

It will be objected that the Commons, though it can also be a bear garden, does a lot of serious work and sandwiches those outhreaks of mutual abuse with substantial debates and speeches. But the same is true of television and hroadcasting generally. The Carlton debate was a relatively rare eruption of coarse popular argument into a political medium still dominated by documentary filmed theses and Newsnight-style discussions between just the sort of talking heads who were most outraged by the Birmingham

The Carlton dehate may, however, be a sign of things to come, one among



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2485 / 0171-345 2435

a number of more aggressive television incursions into politics. And to understand why, we need to concentrate now on the differences between the Commons and the Birmingham event, as well as the similarities between them.

First, the Carlton debate was watched by some 10 million people and involved as voters up to 2.6 million. Those figures, as well as the 3,000 direct participants, dwarf what Parliament manages for any sustained period. Second, though, and more important: why? Because the TV debate and telephone plehiscite was on a subject that the Commons never addresses; the

future of the monarchy. This is not considered acceptable fare for our legislators and elected tribunes. Unsurprising, perhaps: they are working in a palace replete with reminders of monarchical power. MPs are generally a pretty conservative lot. When old Tony Benn rises from time to time to make republican arguments, or when a rare Labour hackhencher dares to question the cost of monarchy, embarrassment and anger flicker round the chamber, It is off limits; what is interesting to the people is not discussable by their elected representatives.

Were the monarchy the only subject

which this applied to, then we would shake our heads and pass on. But the same is true of other things which touch the daily lives of the British. The criminal and medical plague of illegal drugs, and whether that would be worsened or rehuffed by legalisation, is another subject apparently beyond the serious attention of the Commons. (And by serious we mean prime-time, husy-House attention; for the occasional private member's debate, conducted in front of a single junior minister and a comatose colleague can hardly be considered "attention".) The environmental cost to this and future generations of the great car culture is another example. Broadcast violence is a third, overfishing of our seas a fourth, pornography a fifth. Then there are all the new, agonisingly difficult issues around buman reproduction and medical advance, including euthanasia.

You are likelier to hear arguments and conversations about such questions in broadcasting studios than in Parliament. The Commons ought to he a cockpit of the national dehate. But it isn't, really, so that debate takes place instead in television studios and between people selected by television researchers rather than selected by voters. Up to a point, this is an advance for democracy. We wouldn't want to invite Kilroy or even Mr McDonald directly into the legislative process - we woman, who experiences organ shrinkall know that direct democracy, age. Ain't nature a wonderful thing?

unmediated by hearings of evidence, proper arguments, detailed information and constitutional safeguards can become a kind of tyranny itself. Television is better at entertainment than at detailed scrutiny.

But sniffy commentators and MPs should reflect on this. One of the reasons so many people turned eagerly to listen to Carlton's dehate was that the subject is so rarely confronted by them. For decades politicians have loftily declared the future of the monarchy to be "not a matter of debate". Well, they can hardly say so now.

Honey, the kids shrunk me

We report today scientific evidence (is there any other kind?) suggesting that women's brains shrink during pregnancy. Many women, unable to read a book in the final months, will think it explains a lot. So too, of course, will a few million smirking husbands.

But they don't, in our experience. smirk for long. After pregnancy, women's brains return to their normal size. And then, as the nights blur into an epic of sleeplessness and infant wails, it tends to be the man, not the

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

The choice is wind power or selfishness

Sir: Duff Hart-Davis (article, 28 December) purports environmental interests. Yet he fails to appreciate the seriousness of environmental damage from fossil fuels and the way clean lechnology, such as wind power, has profound environmental benefits. His condemnation of the wind turbine at Nympsfield near Stroug is typical of the closed minds and selfish interests of deck-

f politics Main. - - 1955

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chair environmentalists. Closed minds, because action is required to abate damaging chemical emissions from fossil fuel power stations and transport. Hart-Davis must state how be wants electricity to be produced for his own electric kettle. Is he willing to be jointly responsible for excessive carbon dioxide triggering ecological damage from changing weather and rising sea water? Is be bappy that his kettle is responsible for acid rain damage to forests and rivers? Does he want expensive and risk-ridden nuclear-generated

Seifish interests, because he wishes his own view of visual scenery to dominate over all other considerations. He can be assured that no species of animal or plant shares his concern; visual impact is a solely human criterion. Healthy ecology, clean air and water, and maintenance of soil, are the major concerns. A quiet wind turbine, as at Nympsfield, is ecologically henign; sterilising only the 25 square metres of its base, it bas no additional adverse effect on animals or plants (bird strikes are minimal; less than from a road vehicle). One such turbine will produce essential electricity for the local grid equal to the amount used annually by about 500 houses now, and about 1,000 future bouses with

energy efficiency.

Moreover, there are many people who see wind turbines as beautiful dynamic structures; examples of modern technology for sustainable development. I wish I could see one from my house. Professor JOHN TWIDELL Institute of Energy and Sustainable Development De Montfort University Leicester

Sir: Nicholas Schoon suggests that "the expansion of non-polluting energy resources needs to be intelligently subsidised" ("So this is giohal warming?", 4 January). I wonder if he has looked at the political folly called the Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation (NFFO), known in Scotland as the Scottish Renewables Ohligation (SRO), bolh of which came into being as a knee-jerk response following the Rio Conference in 1992.

Under these schemes, consumers each pay a compulsory "renewables" levy on electricity bills. Operators of renewableenergy schemes, predominantly wind power stations, then apply for contracts to supply electricity to the National Grid.

Local authorities are heing besieged with applications for the erection of wind power stations, usually in the loveliest countryside. Generally, these are for 25 or so turbine towers, reaching some 200-

plus feet into the sky.
Wind is unpredictable. When it hlows in sufficient strength, the state-of-the-art turbines, operating at about one-third efficiency, create very small quantities of electricity which must be taken by the Grid, whether it needs it or not. have turned oul to have been

Large-scale storage is impossible. Operators are paid about 4p per unit, guaranteed for 15 years. It is a

goldmine.
The money would be better spent on domestic and industrial energy conservation, power station filtering, low-energy light hulbs, and loft insulation, all of which last for years and are silent and JOHN CAMPBELL Edinburgh

Sir: Full exploitation of the existing technologies for energy conservation, combined with renewable energy sources and minor changes in the way we organise our lives, could allow a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 50 per cent by the industrialised countries in 25 years.

Commitment to such reductions at this year's climate change conference is necessary if we are to persuade the countries now industrialising rapidly, such as China and India - both of which have huge resources of coal (high in carbon content) - to develop in ways which are less profligate of energy than the route we have

followed in the past. We should make freely available to developing countries the lecbnologies for local manufacture of energy-efficient equipment and devices to exploit renewable energy. Such policies would also help to reduce the probability of conflicts over reducing stocks of oil. MARTIN QUICK Stroud, Gloucestershire

Sir: It is disturbing to find Michael Meacher (letter, 6 January) repeating predictions about the climate made 10 years ago which

incorrect. There is no scientific consensus that global warming has occurred as a result of CO2

emissions, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has itself backed down on its extreme predictions made in the early Nineties. Recent research has established

the following. Very accurate satellite measurements of the earth's temperature since 1979 have shown no warming but in fact a slight decrease. The oceans have the capacity to absorb 52 times the amount of CO in the atmosphere, and the lifetime of atmosphere CO; is about five years. Variations in global temperature correlate very closely with aspects of sun-spot activity. Although the climale has warmed between 0.3 and 0.6 degrees C in the past 100 years, there has been little if any warmin in the past 50 years, during which 70 per cent of the total anthropogenic greenhouse gases have been added to the atmosphere. MICHAEL HIRD

Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire Sir: Greenhouse gas emissions appear set to create worldwide climate disruption, with extreme

events occurring ever more often. But the term "global warming" gives an impression of a cosy drift to a more pleasant world where we will all enjoy tea on the lawn disturbed only by gentle breezes. It is no wonder that people do not "get the message" TONY ROBSON Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

hot, cold, wet or dry meteorological

Hooray for the honest beggar

Sir: If Tony Blair is serious about wanting to get homeless people off the streets ("Blair wants beggars off the streets", 2 January), the first place for him to start is to pledge that a Labour government will overturn the restrictions on Housing Benefit announced in the recent Budget. Without a pledge to prevent homelessness, Mr Blair's words are meaningless.

As for begging, it is important to distinguish between a minority who demand money with menaces and the majority who beg peacefully. Begging is an honest transaction, far more honest that, say, campaigning in a general election. No one forces you to part with your money, nor do beggars lie about hidden tax increases in order to get your support. Give mc an honest beggar any day. ANDY WINTER Brighson

Sir: I first visited Barcelona in 1981 and, on emerging from a Metro station, was alarmed to be confronted by a beggar. I smiled smugly to myself and thought. "Well, we don't have that sort of

thing in Britain." I last visited Barcelona about two years ago and I cannot recall seeing any beggars at all. But when one visits London, one cannot walk 50 yards without coming across either a beggar or someone sleeping rough in a doorway.

the decline in the values of this country that has led to the view that begging is acceptable or necessary. The situation will improve only when government accepts that it has some responsibility for our citizens who find themselves living as vagrants and cannot, on their own, find a way out. JAMES R CADLE High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

A backward step for adoption

Sir: Your Legal Affairs Editor correctly reported that a possible reform of adoption law was driven by the Prime Minister's wish to curb the influence of social workers ("Adoption law to curb political correctness", 28 December).

It is also connected with the increasing privatisation of social work resulting in local authorities often heing forced to use private agencies, many of which pay well below an acceptable minimum

It is easy to criticise the "political correctness" of social workers, but they are subject to extremely stringent legal controls. In relation to adoption law, it is

not social workers who make orders but the courts. At all stages hirth parents and relatives are fully involved. To seek to privatise this skilled and sensitive work because of a tiny number of reported cases is highly regrettable.

To return to the myriad private What I have zero tolerance for is adoption agencies that used to exist King, to continue this.

may well result in a much less rigidly controlled system.

The Association of Professional

PHILIP J MEASURES

Social Workers Unoxeter, Staffordshire

Correspondence Secretary

Private train

firm does care

Sir: John Stanning's remarks about

the Oxford train services (letter, 3 January) demand comment.

As managing director of Thames Trains, which provides most of the

London, I can say that we do care if

It is true that five years ago we

were competing with modern hus

flowing M40 and benefiting from a

geography of Oxford that rather

suits huses. We were using Fifties

rolling stock. Some three years ago

we acquired new trains and

increased the frequency of the

Oxford to London service, with

corresponding increase in the

We were privatised on 13

October last year, and over the next

18 months our customers will see

express trains running every half-

between peak periods. They will

commitments in the Franchise

Agreement. We were improving

the service before privatisation and

we will build on the success aiready

Managing Director, Thames Trains

also receive attention from better-

hour, rather than an hourly service

patronage of the service.

trained staff, one of our

ROGER McDONALD

Reading, Berkshire

achieved.

services using a relatively free-

services between Oxford and

customers do not feel they are

getting a good service.

thoughts go to those able to influence the National Lottery and the Arts Council): what are you going to do about it now he's gone? Twickenham, Middlesex

Home truths

Sir: Dr Martin Preene (fetter, 2 January) is right that the logic of the housing spin-doctors is flawed. With rising divorce and separation, limited mortgage repayments for the redundant and negative equity. clearly not all purchasers are leaving their homes for more expensive accommodation, at least not voluntarily. Sale. Cheshire

Worthy women

Sir: Many thousands of people, including old women, undertake the fundraising and other tasks that enable voluntary hospices to work with people whose diseases are no longer curable. What we need is an editorial about the achievements and challenges of providing hospice and palliative care services. What we get is your editorial (31 December) suggesting that undermining the honours system by ridicule is better than simple abolition, which would provoke a huge fuss about "recognising the public worth of some old woman who has devoted her life to hospices". JEAN GAFFIN

London WC1

Sir: What a muddle about the January.) Dionysius (not Dionysus) seventh) century; and. if Jesus was anniversary falls in 1997 (not 1996). since there is no year between IBC

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056: e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk). E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Build on legacy of Ronnie Scott

Sir: Much has been discussed about Ronnie Scott being a depressive and of his possible suicide, as though these are the inevitable corollaries of creative genius ("Jazzmen sound blue note at Scott's farewell", 8 January).

Unlike some of us, he fought against bureaucratic obstacles and cultural inertia and, in forming his jazz club, succeeded in bringing the unique talents of great American jazz musicians to these shores. His humorous cynicism developed

more as self-protection. When I formed the Bass Clef in 1984, Ronnie Scott's band opened it. Then, in 1994, I was faced with closure after battling against similar obstacles for 10 years. Ronnie was immediately helpful and supportive. In my case, the financial pressures were

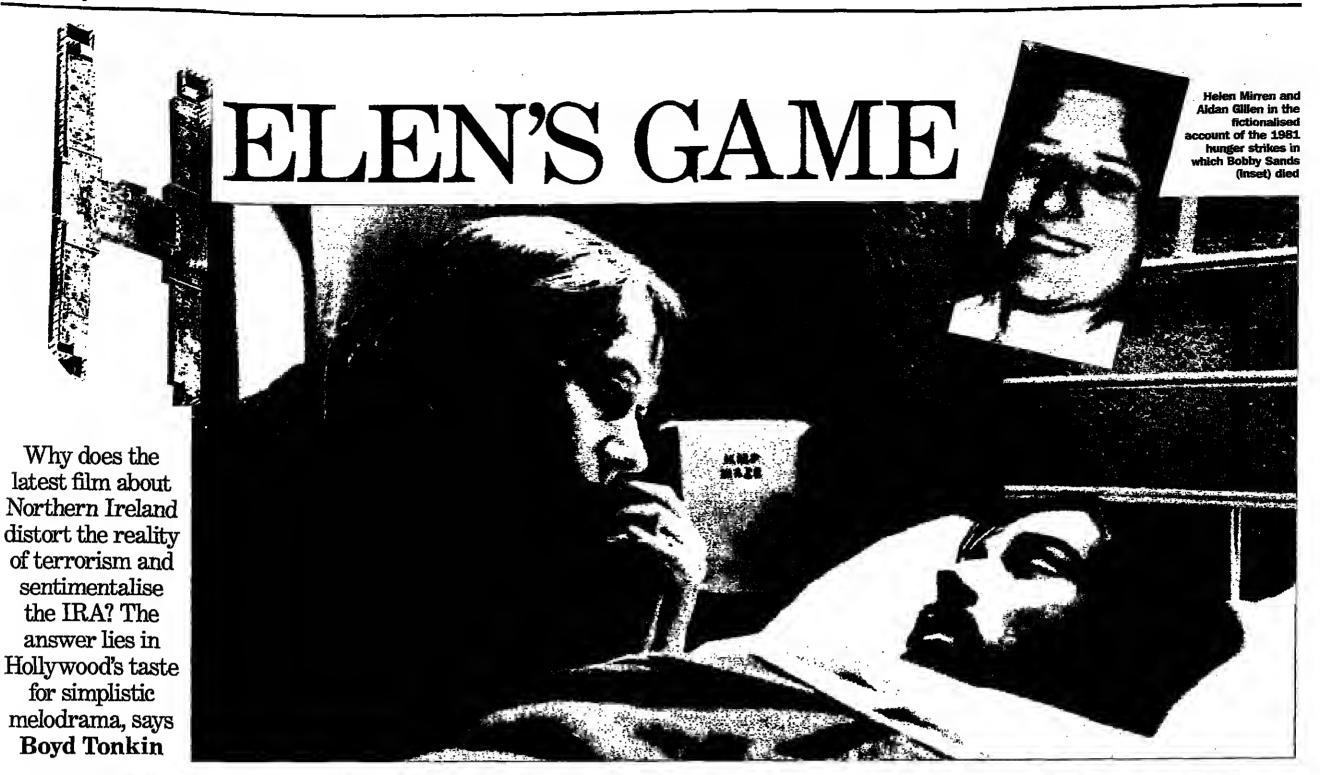
irreversible and Bass Clef and Tenor Clef were forced to close. Now Ronnie has departed this world. One of the best ways to honour his memory is to ensure that his club and its Birmingham counterpart remain as centres of the Cinderella of the arts, jazz. All support should be given to Ronnie's partner in the club. Pete

To all those involved in the arts who are now recognising the great contribution Ronnie made land my

Executive Director National Council for Hospice and Specialist Palliative Care Services

Muddled years

millennium! [Leading article, 3 Exignus lived in the sixth (not born in 4BC, the 2000th NICOLAS WALTER London N1



lmost a year ago, a couple of hundred yards from where I'm writing this article, the IRA murdered two ordinary Londoners. It probably never intended to kill the staff of a newsagent's shop and wreck their families' lives. But civilians who foolishly insist on working near so-called "prestige" or "Establishment" locations such as Canary Wharf had better take the consequences. So runs the iron-clad logic of the bombers. And any work of art that tries to grapple in a mature and realistic way with guerrilla warfare either has to face the truth about the suffering it causes, or else condemn itself Irish violence that really does to empty rhetoric and emotional dishonesty

The Canary Wharf casualties - and thousands like them - will not have crossed the mind of the audiences whose votes made Terry George's Some Mother's Son the most popular movie shown at last summer's

Edinburgh Film Festival. The film, which opens in Britain tomorrow, stars Helen deals with a shameful state ren finds herself torn between

Mirren - who also co-produced it - in gritty downbeat mood as the non-political mother of a jailed IRA volunteer. She befriends the hard-line mother of another prisoner, and the pair are drawn into the murky backstage politics around the 1981 H-block hunger strikes. Ten IRA men died during the campaign of self-starvation after the British government toughened their prison regime. The first, Bobby Sands, had previously been elected from his cell as a Westminster MP.

Ironically, after all the unwarranted fuss about Neil Jordan's humane and politically complex epic Michael Collins. here comes a screen drama of want to sentimentalise the military wing of the re movement.

The Belfast-born George, once an internee in the Maze himself, later became a New York magazine writer and coscripted Jim Sheridan's In the Name of the Father. That film, as anyone who saw its BBC outing last weekend will know,

there's only one...

conspiracy against blameless men and doesn't express a smidgeon of sympathy for the actual Guildford bombers.

Here, on the other hand, is a movie that merely shows an IRA active-service unit bloodlessly potting an army patrol from a safe, antiseptic distance.

The punter in the multiplex in Minneapolis or Melbourne would never know that attacks on "soft" civilian targets have formed a central plank of Provisional IRA strategy since 1971 or so. Save for a brief, farcical scene in an Orange pub, the film erases the existence of the Loyalist majority in the Six Counties.

It scrambles the historical record to the extent that a ficstands in Northern Ireland elections; meanwhile, a nationalist MP is described as holding "the halance of power" at a time when Margaret Thatcher commanded an overall majority of 43.

True, the film's tone gradually darkens and deepens. Mir-

flint-hearted militants in both the IRA and British intelligence, as Sands and the other hunger strikers sicken and slowly die. At one point, a platoon of cheery squaddies even saves her car from the rising tide when she gets stuck giving a friend a driving lesson on a

A decent, old-fashioned gent from the diplomatic corps tries to hroker a deal, while a snarling Thatcherite with estu-ary vowels sabotages his efforts. But one hasic untruth disables Some Mother's Son as historical chronicle and as straightforward human drama. It shows, quite correctly, that British intelligence unleashed a dirty war against the IRA shortly titious body called the "Union- after Mrs Thatcher came to

> The film's focus on the hunger strike, with its aura of passive martyrdom, exactly reflects the IRA's priorities for international propaganda at the time. When Sands and his co-protesters who had been stripped of privileges as part of a British strategy to basten a showdown - attend a prison Mass clad in their beards and hlankets, saccharine religious imagery swamps the screen. This is not political argument, but cloying emotional

show the bloody and reckless

campaign that provoked that

blackmail. In contrast, the muchvilified Michael Collins turned its bero's rising doubts about the "mayhem" he deployed into the motor of its plot. It showed that Collins exerted a leverage way beyond his military strength hecause he targeted crucial British agents - but it let those

sweep located Britain's Irish wars within a 700-year colonial history, rather than presenting them as an archetypal shoot-out between rival gangs of white bats and black bats.

For Terry George, the Brits will always wear the villain's beadgear, But an Orangetinted counterpart that switched these roles around wouldn't make for any better art. Miranda Richardson's hysterical IRA psychopath in The Crying Game doesn't get us any nearer to the truth than the ludicrous cartoon of an MI5 bovver boy who bullies Helen Mirren in Some Mother's Son.

For Main Street, **USA**, Ireland remains a free-fire zone of political fantasy

Why does this hrand of sentimental melodrama disfigure most attempts to put the Northern Irish trauma on film? In other media, after all, the Troubles that began again in 1968 bave spawned a generation of searching and clear-sighted artists who move beyond reflex tribal loyalties. From Tom Paulin's poems and essays to Frank McGuinness's plays, creative minds have sought and found a grown-up response to the anguish on their doorstep.

The answer, inevitably, has a lot to do with the tastes and agents appear as human beings too. And its broad historical sort of fatal synergy links the

American refusal to face the reality of power and violence in Ireland with the infantile fairytales that pass for committed film-making in Hollywood.

Typically, Some Mother's Son has backing from a mainstream source in the US entertainment industry: Ted Turner's Castle Rock corporation. It would be good to know when Castle Rock plans to invest in a similar movie about one of the dozen undercover wars of torture and massacre that the US has waged in its own Latin American backyard. For Main Street, USA and its mass media, Ireland remains a freefire zone of political fantasy and zero-cost wish-fulfilment.

The real objection to Some Mother's Son is not that it whitethat chooses to kill civilians when it deems fit. You could imagine a much more toughminded propaganda film that did exactly that without insulting its viewers. It is that Terry George pretends to tell a slice of real history (the film begins with news footage of Thatcher quoting St Francis on the steps of 10 Downing Street in 1979) hut then delivers a playground game of goodies and baddies. The fact that one IRA dichard, who thwarts and tricks Helen Mirren's character, turns out to be a wrong un too doesn't mitigate that crudity.

It should be possible to make a film that justifies anti-state or anti-colonial warfare while avoiding this type of fraud. The great precedent bere is the Italian director Gillo Pontecorvo's masterpiece. The Battle of Algiers, made in 1965.

Pontecorvo's savage and strugent portrayal of the war between French paras and the

FLN in the Algiers cashah of the late Fifties has visibly affected every serious film about guerrilla violence since - from the work of Costa-Gavras and Francesco Rosi up to and including Michael Collins, We never really doubt that Algeria deserves its freedom from the racist idiocy of French rule. But neither does Pontecorvo ever shy away from the pain and horror that goal

hrings, as both sides twist a

sickening ratchet of cruelty. Pontecorvo's film throws a harsh light on the techniques that most clandestine rehel groups employ, however just their cause. Another gap that weakens Some Mother's Son and the Ulster thrillers that preceded it is their inability to show on screen how the IRA actually understandable ignorance after all, last year's Docklands and Manchester bombs wrongfooted the British security agencies, even after 25 years of infiltration. Mostly, though, it reflects a coy reluctance to dis-

play the reasoning that leads

participants to use the bomb, the

bullet and the baseball bat.

Instead, we eavesdrop on the usual sinister crew of Establishment insiders as they cook up provocations in the secret corridors of power - a feature that George's film shares with Ken Loacb's Hidden Agenda. Of course, such spooks do exist. The worst they have contrived in Northern Ireland - especially during the crazy days of black propaganda and "PsyOps" in the mid-Seventies - probably exceeded anything that has so far reached the screen. But the glaring oversight that skews softcentred "burnan" angles on the Irish war is that they tell us

IRA thinks and plans and acts. Without both sides of the equation in the frame, myths and gestures take control. WB Yeats - who knew more

than most about the "terrible beauty" of Irish republican revolt - once said that we make rhetoric out of our quarrel with others, but poetry out of our quarrel with ourselves. Recent movies with a modern Northern Irish setting have heen strong on rhetoric, but desperately weak on poetry. Paradoxically, the best way to dramatise that quarrel with oneself that even ardent revolutionaries have might be to focus uncon-ditionally (as Michael Collins did) on a committed warrior. not on some baffled onlooker

caught up in the conflict. dehate on political violence and its limits out into the open, rather than masking it in the evasive Irish mist that wafts through Some Mother's Son.

In fact, IRA protagonists have proved as rare as Ulster Catholics called Billy in the 50 years since James Mason's hunted gunman lurched through the film noir fog of Carol Reed's Odd Man Out. And, for insight and historical perspective, nothing in the Troubles cinema can match Margarethe von Trotta's portrait of the Baader-Meinhoff activist Gudrun Ensslin, in ber 1981 film The German Sisters.

Von Trotta's original title means "the leaden time". As this week's attacks in Belfast sbow, the British state is still living through its own age of lead. But films that choose to shirk the messy truth can hardly claim to lift its burden on us all.

precious little about how today's Films, The Tabloid, page 7



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Croydon? Sorry, I was on another planet

be most amazing case is taking place at the moment in the High Court, where, for the first time in British law, a defendant is offering an extra-terrestrial alibi as a defence. Drew Webster, 26, is accused of shoplifting in a store in Croydon but he claims that it is impossible as he was on Mars at the time.

Here is some of the intriguing testimony, given when Webster himself was on the stand. Counsel: Your name is Drew Webster? Webster: That is my name on

Earth, yes. Counsel: You have another name elsewhere? Webster: Yes. Counsel: Would you care to enlighten the court as to what

Webster: Yes, On Mars I am known as Zick-Zack. Counsel: Are you, indeed? Uncommon sort of name. isn't it? Webster: Not on Mars. Counsel: And why are you

not called Drew Webster on Mars as you are here? Webster: It is a difficult name for them to pronounce. They have trouble with Rs and Ws.

Counsel: Do they indeed? So what sort of names do they bave on Mars, Mr Webster' Webster: Mig-Mog, Tank-Top, Lib-Lab, Dim-Sum, Tick-Tock, Flip-Flop ... Counsel: All doublebarrelled names, are they, Mr Webster? Webster: The ordinary

people have double-barrelled names on Mars. Only the posb ones have single names. Counsel: I see. Now, before we come to the subject of your alibi, perhaps you could tell the court what it is you do for a living? Webster: Certainly. I am a Hugh Grant look-alike. Judge: May I interrupt here for a moment? You may

think mc very out of touch, Mr Webster, but who is Hugh Grant and what exactly is a Hugh Grant look-alike? Webster: Hugh Grant is a film star, M'lud. It would be very expensive to hire him for personal appearances. Luckily, I look a lot like him, so people hire me instead. Judge: And when you turn up, do people think you are Hugh Grant? Webster: No, M'lud. Judge: Good, Because we

might have you up for false



Miles Kington

pretences if they did. Webster: When someone looking like Hugh Grant turns up to open a laundromat in Croydon, most people realise that it is not him. Film stars do not open laundromats in Croydon.

Judge: I see. Is there much money in this look-alike

Webster: While it lasts. Of course the risk is that I will stop looking like Hugh Grant. Judge: Or that he will stop looking like you. Webster. Indeed. By the way. M'lud, has anyone ever

pointed out to you that you have a remarkable resemblance to the Duke of Edinburgh? Judge: It bas occasionally been suggested ... Webster: Could be sitting on a gold mine, there, M'lud. Judge: Could I? Hmmm ... Carry on, please. Counsel: Now, Mr Webster, where were you on the afternoon of 17 July last

Webster: On Mars, sir. Counsel: I see. And what were you doing on the planet Mars? Webster: I was at a party.

Counsel: Oh - they have parties in the afternoon on Mars, do they? Webster: No. sir. It wasn't afternoon on Mars. It was early evening. It was only afternoon in Croydon. Counsel: May I ask if it was a good party, this party on Mars?

Webster: All parties on Mars tend to be good. Comsel: May I ask why? Webster: Well, nobody has ever heard of Hugh Grant, for a start, so I don't get people coming up and asking me how Liz Hurley is, or bow Divine is ...

Judge: How divine what is? Counsel: My Lord, I don't think it would profit us to go too deeply into the matter of Miss Divine. It would not mean much to you. Judge: You may well be right. The only Divine I ever met was a large cuddly Californian prostitute. Carry

Counsel: May I inquire how you got to Mars? Webster: I was taken aboard a large spacecraft and whisked there. Counsel: Quick journey to Mars, is it? Webster: Travelling first-class.

Counsel: I see. And how many classes are there? Webster: Eighty-six altogether. Mars is a very class-ridden society. Judge: Very like the Duke of Edinburgh, you say? Webster: I think so, M'lud. Judge: Hmm ... Well, try this, then ... A maniac with a gun is no more dangerous than a maniac with a cricket bat! Recognise that? Webster: The resemblance is breathtaking, M'lud. Judge: Thank you, Carry on! More of this disturbing trial

tomorrow:

Gillian Shepha

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The man who would be president - until he's elected

he most interesting reply John Major gave at his press conference on Tuesday was that he would serve a full term if elected. Maybe that was wise. To contemplate departure at all is an admission of mortality. It nevertheless conflicts with gossip in the past that if he were to confound predictions and win, he would leave voluntarily in midterm, perhaps once the millennium celebrations were complete. And didn't some of his most trusted campaigners dur-ing the 1995 leadership contest, hedging against a right-wing cabinet challenge, insist repeat-edly that he would depart in plenty of time for a young pretender such as Michael Portillo to succeed him before the next general election?

But that isn't the point. Circumstances dictate that between now and polling day the Prime Minister cannot for one moment suggest that he might be replaced in mid-term. For it is he, rather than his party, whom the voters are explicitly

being asked to endorse. For all the Tory claims that their opponents are a one-man band, it is they who now offer up a single figure as their champion, their prize electoral asset. On Tuesday, Mr Major stood alone against a hackdrop on which the word Conservative was nowhere to be seen. It was Tony Blair who sat flanked by

a Cook-Brown-Prescott-Beckett quartet, all of whom spoke at yesterday's press conference. Unlike James Callaghan before he lost power, Mr Major is shown by the polls to be much less personally popular than his opponent. But like James Callaghan, he is significantly more popular than his party. And that is why Conserva-tive Central Office has been prepared to sign up to the media construct of a presidential-style

election campaign.
The 1979 parallel, or rather the reverse image of it, isn't an empty one. It is not just that Mr Callaghan was the most popular feature of his party (which was why he did what Mr Major has so far declined to do and vainly offered Margaret Thatcher a television debate). It was also that the seeds of the disintegration into which the party would fall within a year or so, had already been sown. To realise how fruitfully, you only have to have read the post-election diary entry in which a cheerful Tony Benn says how much he is looking forward to the freedom of opposition. This was a party in which a large faction was preparing, unencumbered by the distractions of government, to wage a life-andsoul struggle for its future. Sound familiar? It may even be that the modern Tories - as late-1970s Labour already were - are now in real, if not irrevocable, danger of splitting into two. John Major's special claim to wage a presidential campaign is that he is a relative rarity among senior Tories in not half-actively prepar-

ing, Tony Benn-style, for opposition. That isn't to say that Major won't be an effective campaigner. Or that there is any rea-



Donald Macintyre

Major's campaign style won't wash here the state of the party counts as much as the qualities of

the man

scribes has a simple resonance. He may not be comfortable in defending the rights of hereditary peers, hut he is dangerous in attacking Scottish home rule because he is genuinely, passionately, against it.

Blair scorched more earth yesterday by giving the clearest possible sign that no new personal taxes, including a new top rate, are any longer being considered. It is true that economic circumstances may yet require a first Labour hudget to put taxes up. But precisely because that's just as likely of the Tories. they can make little or nothing of it. It nevertheless remains

an enthusiastic one. His argument that it was Conservatism

which was the author and

executor of the programme of

union reform and privatisation

to which Labour now suh-

gest it has so far failed to be. But in encouraging the argument - which is also seductive to intellectuals on the left - that Labour's programme isn't detailed enough, the Tories run up against another formidable 1979 precedent much studied by Blair. The Labour leader yesterday made education and reform of the welfare state his priorities. The assumption must be that money saved in social

possible that Major can start to

turn rapidly improving eco-

nomic optimism into the vote

winner the polls stubbornly sug-

security reform will go primarily to education. Gordon Brown's hit last year on child benefit for middle-class parents of 16to 18-year-olds hints that Labour may well be radical enough to dig deep into universal benefits for those who don't need them. But in not committing himself before the election, the Labour leader is doing more than following the copybook case of Margaret Thatcher in fighting on a manifesto that tells the truth but not the whole truth. Wasn't it Chris Patten, an architect of that manifesto who said prophetically in 1978 that "No opposition can expect to do the kind of elaborate analysis of future spending plans and possibilities which is possible for a government"?

The case of Callaghan's fall also suggests, to Major's disadvantage, the real and rather boring reason that the notion of a presidential campaign in the UK won't run. We don't have a presidential system here. Because the same party controls the legislature and the executive, the voters are electing the party as well as the leader to power when they put their crosses in the ballot box. The state of the party matters as much as the qualities of the man. It's true that Blair presides over a coalition of old and new guard, but so did Margaret Thatcher in 1979. And if he wins, like Thatcher's mainly loyal 1979 intake, the new Labour entrants, capturing fresh territory outside the party's heartlands for the first time in 20 years, will owe their arrival and continued survival to him. It is a paradox that Blair's achievement is not so much that he has projected himself as a national leader, but that he has at last turned Labour son to doubt his own promise that he will be into the party most capable of leading.

spent the tail-end of Christmas in the west of . Ireland, where the snow locks the flat fields in an iron embrace, everyone rides to hounds without the slightest concern over saboteurs or party policy, and the first thing you see on arriving at Shannon airport is a hig sign saying "Welcome Home", as if nobody could possibly be visiting the place in the depths of winter. I noticed that the citizens of Galway have temporarily stopped drinking the traditional winter tipple of hot whiskey (which fills the air in any remotely fashionable har with the combined aromas of sugar, cloves and turf); brandy has now become the snort du choix on the Atlantic seaboard. Brandy on its own to be sociable, brandy and port if you're feeling poorly, or hrandy with lemonade if you're in need of something, you know, thirst-quenching. God knows what they drink

Listening to the relatives and in-laws exchanging news. it struck me once again that Ireland, among its many merits, really is the place for freak accidents. Every winter you can be sure of hearing some local piece of Grand Guignol, whether it's of a man drowning in his own corn in some ghastly threshing incident, or a woman whose bair is sucked from her head by an industrial pulpitcleaning device at St Bridget's Church, or how the rotating ornamental brass fan recently installed in a Galway bar abruptly fell off the ceiling and decapitated a second cousin of Micksy Whatsisname, the guy in an RTE sitcom.

if they just want to get

This year was well up to scratch. I heard about an old friend, now 77, who was out in the woods with his son-inlaw, felling trees and cutting them up. As they wrestled to free a recalcitrant saw, they failed to notice that their efforts had destabilised extremely dead one, which slowly hut spectacularly fell on them both. The younger man broke both his legs, but my friend suffered a weirder fate. His ribs were crushed and his vertebrae truncated so that when his family next saw him walking, he was fully four inches shorter than the last time they'd seen him. Thus does life occasionally imitate, not art, but the cheaper kind of cartoon.

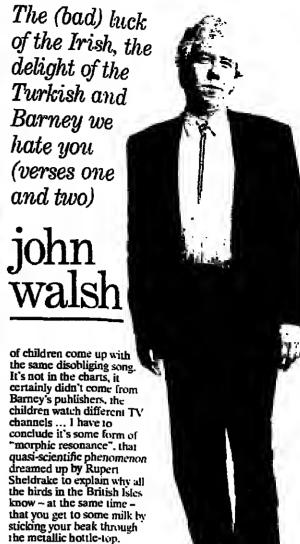


Barney the Purple Dinosaur? He's a furry, friendly little chap invented for US television (the educational network that Newt Gingrich tried to close down) and his madeap exploits are thought to appeal to children everywhere. Penguin Books publishes his encounters with barnyard animals, and a wide range of merchandising, soft toys and the like is available for

undemanding three-year-olds. In fact, most children absolutely loathe Barney and the cosy-sweet world he inhabits. I discovered this when I heard my offspring singing (to the tune of Nick

Nack Paddy-Wack) this little song: "I hate you/You hate me/We're a horrid familee/With a hig shotgun, hang. Barney on the floor/No more purple dinosaur". Charming. eh? It had, they said, heen made up by a nineyear-old satirist at school. Then a week later in Ireland, they sang it to their little cousins, who immediately responded with their own version: "I hate you/You hate me/Let's gang up and kill Barnee/With a great hig bang and a bullet through the

head/Sorry, kids, but Barney's dead". Where did they hear it? Oh, somebody at school ... How could it happen? Five hundred miles apart, two sets



eaders of Loaded magazine, and free-Magazine. everywhere, will raise a glass to Mr Muslum Gunduz, the swivel-eyed leader of the Azemendis, a radical Islamic sect in Turkey characterised by black turbans, flowing robes and a passionate desire to establish a separate Islamic republic. It is not, however, the holy Mr Gunduz's

Peter Strauss with John Walsh at the Ivy (left), where a novel by lan McEwan (right) disappeared

I nesday saw the first literary thrash of the year, at London's Ivy restaurant, where all manner of writerly types gathered to say goodbye to Peter Strauss, the list from a swanky paperbacker of other publishers' hit titles into a swanky hardbacker of its own original titles, and signed up an impressive family of good writers, from John Banville and Colm Toibin to Mark Lawson and John Lanchester.

Mr Strauss, famed throughout the publishing world for his ability to converse in 43 different accents without having any identifiable speaking voice of his own, is off to be a freelance publishing "scout" in the depths nf Syracuse, upstate New York. Rumours that he is leaving to pursue New Challenges nr investigate the Soul of American Fiction

proved to be red herrings. Mr Strauss is in fact decamping because he has fallen in love with the American writer Mary Karr, author of an affecting memoir of her father, The Liar's Club.

The party featured a moment of literary history. Ian McEwan, the novelist, arrived at 8pm with the manuscript of his new povel, Enduring Love, which he intended to deliver to his agent, Deborah Rogers. He plnuked it on a table and, crippled with hunger pangs, went looking fur a tray of canapés. When he next looked round, the parcel had gone. "I assume Deborab picked it up," said McEwan philosophically. "I can't imagine who else would have a use for it."

Did anyone notice Mr Strauss departing for Syracuse with a suspicious bulge in his designer suit?

secessionist initiatives that have put him in the news; it is his arrest by the police, who reportedly found him in flagrante with 24-year-old Fadime Sahin at his flat last weekend.

According to Ms Sahin, she was only the last in a lengthy procession of gullible lovelies who had been used as "sex slaves" by the dreadlocked Rasputin. And how had he made the unwise virgins come across? "Gunduz said my body was infested with djinns," explained a tearful Fadime. "and that the only way I could be freed was by giving him my underwear and sleeping with him".

You've got to hand it to him. As persuasive tactics go, that's right up there with, "If you won't have sex with me, all the sperm will be banked up through my system until it reaches my brain, which will fault." And persuading Fadime to part with her lingerie as well strikes me as masterly.

I'm sorry to hear the enterprising Muslim has been criticised by small-minded Turkish clerics who talked about "charlatans passing themselves off as religious leaders". This man deserves better. He is an inspiration. He is a stimulation. He is a tonic. He is, indeed, a djinn and tonic.

Early teacher retirement is not a right

Gillian Shephard says abuse of pension schemes is diverting funds from classrooms

here has been much inaccurate and illinformed reporting recently in the press and elsewhere of the forthcoming changes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme. That, coupled with ill-judged threats of industrial action from the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) will have caused confusion among teachers and concern to many teachers' employers. It is time to put the whole issue in perspective and to set out some of the facts.

Last year, the Commons Public Accounts Committee highlighted the cost to the Teachers' Pension Scheme of premature retirement and urged the Government to take action. That is hardly surprising when one considers that the 13,000 teachers who took premature retirement last year will cost the taxpayer £480m. That is both an abuse of the pension scheme and a diversion of resources away from frontline

If we left the current arrangements for premature retirement in place, the Government Actuary's report shows that a significant rise in employers' contributions would be needed now, and contributions might have to double by the early years of the next century. Under our proposals, we can avoid such rises. The Government is required, by law, to implement the Government Actuary's recommendations, so the status quo - leaving contribution rates unchanged - is not

an option. The Government Actuary's report also shows that if we transfer the cost of premature



retirement from the scheme to employers, we can reduce the employers' contribution rate. That will release funding to enable employers to meet the cost of premature retirement without affecting other programmes. We believe that this is the most sensible way of making employers accountable for their decisions on prema-

ture retirement. Under the current arrangements, the costs of premature retirement are pooled among all employers of teachers. So a school or college may make no premature retirements or it may make dozens, hut it will pay the same contribution rate mature retirement to older mature retirements for school

in either case. That does not prudently, and they have not

Under the new arrangements, since employers will have to pay the extra cost of each premature retirement as and when they make it, they will make more considered, prudent decisions. It must surely be right that when an education institution takes a management decision, it

that decision.

teachers and taking on younger encourage employers to behave teachers who cost them less in salary. But that arrangement takes no account of the cost to the public purse of premature retirement. Once that cost is taken into account, there is no overall saving when a teacher is granted premature retirement. The new arrangements will make that apparent to

employers. Many of the teachers' unions and others have been saying should also be responsible for that we want to end premature the financial consequences of retirement completely. That is nonsense: the budget settle-Schools can currently make ment is based on a 25 per cent budget savings by granting pre-reduction in numbers of pre-

teachers in 1997-98. And the planned numbers in further and higher education are around historic levels. There premature retirement where this is necessary.

So it is a myth that "burntout" teachers will be trapped in our schools, ruining the quality of education in them. At present, only one in five teachers stays unul age 60. It is not credible to believe that the remaining four out of five teachers are all incapable of teaching effec-

tively until they reach 60. Of course, there have been big changes in education, and for the better. Teachers have had to cope with a lot of change, but it is ludicrous to assert that the result is that four out of five of them cannot cope once they reach their fifties. It is particularly indefensible when teachers who have taken ill-health retirement reappear a few days later as supply teachers. We are determined to put a stop to that abuse - teachers are either too ill to teach or they are not. A teacher can't retire on Friday and start teaching again on Monday morning.

We have been accused of conducting a "sham" consultation. We aunounced the consultation on 22 October, with 12 weeks for consideration by consultees. Because of the wide interest in these proposals, we have also made a summary available to members of the public. I will take final decisions only after 17 January, when the consultation is complete.

There have also been complaints that we are introducing these changes too quickly. In fact, the Government is required to implement the recommendations of the Government Actuary - which form a key part of these proposals will still be plenty of scope for from I April this year. It is foolish to suggest that the timing is somehow connected with the fact that we are in the last ses-

sion of this Parliament. What these reforms will achieve is to put early retirement back on a sensible, accountable footing. I do not helieve we can afford to let

The writer is Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

Education+, The Tabloid



Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6HA

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business & city BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Lloyds fined over pensions mis-selling

Jili Treanor Banking Correspondent

lmro, the investment regulator. vesterday dished out its heaviest penalty for mis-selling pensions and the first against a high street hank by fining Lloyds TSB

£325,000 and ordering it to pay £63.000 in costs. The investigation by Imro into the bank covered 14,000 pensions transfers made by Lloyds be-ween April 1988 and June 1993. Of those, 2,600 have been identified as priority cases which

nced immediate attention. Lloyds anticipates that 1,500 of the priority cases will require compensation and has already offered an average payment of £4.000 to 164 of them.

This is the fifth disciplinary

sult of a review ordered by the Securities and Investments Board, the main City regulator, after it discovered that 1.5 million people may have been missold personal pensions.

The fine announced yesterday related to three charges brought against Lloyds Bank by

Imro said the first charge re-lated to Lloyds' failure to obtain relevant facts about a customer's personal and financial circumstances that were needed in order to give advice on carrying out a pension transfer.

In particular Lloyds did not obtain all the benefits provided by the schemes that people had transferred from. This meant it was unable to provide action announced by Imro for pensions that were mis-sold sion which could be properly before 1994. It has three in- compared with the occupa-

SFA re-opens talks on rules

The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA) may be forced to drop the most controversial part of a new proposal for disciplining senior executives of City firms that get into serious financial trouble, writes Jill

After a deluge of criticism, the SFA has agreed to re-open discussions with the City's main lobby groups over a planned shift in the burden of proof in disciplinary cases.

Under the SFA's proposals, senior executives would have to prove they acted correctly, rather than the present situation in which the SFA has to show they failed in their duties.

The rulcbook changes were drawn up after the Barings collapse and were provoked by the furore surrounding the SFA's decision not to bring disciplinary cainsi Peter Banng the chairman, and Andrew Tuckey, his deputy.

It is not clear whether the SFA is prepared to drop the proposed change in the burden of

However, legal advice sought by the Association of Private Ctient Investment Managers and Stockhrokers (Apcims) suggests the move would violate the European convention for the protection of human rights.

The SFA's original aim was to introduce the plans by the end of last year although Nick Durlacher, chairman of the regulator, always expected the proposals to be greeted with

The SFA wants the rules to pin responsibility on a senior executive when firms run into

The SFA received over 100 responses to the proposals, which were published in September. A final version of the proposals has yet to go to the SFA's board and looks unlikely to do so until further soundings are taken from lobby groups in

"We have to get it right and put in proposals which are workable, enforceable and practicable and still achieve the thrust of our objectives," a

Separately, Fidelity Brokerage is approaching a 31 January deadline set by the SFA to sort out back-office problems which have already cost the hroking firm around 200 of its 35,000 clients.

"The SFA continues to closely monitor Fidelity's progress and will review which results have been achieved at the end of this month," an SFA

vestigations outstanding as a re- tional scheme that employees were leaving. Secondly, Lloyds failed to

have a system to ensure all cus-tomers had information required to make a fair and halanced decision on carrying out a pension transfer. Imro said Lloyds did not have procedures to obtain all relevant facts about a customer's personal and financial circumstances from April 1988 until February 1993.

The third charge was that be-tween May 1990 and June 1993 Lloyds failed to ensure that all customers had the information required to make a fair and balanced decision on carrying out a pension transfer.

Lloyds did not always provide illustrations of a personal pension which could be compared on a like-for-like basis with the employer's pension scheme. And Lloyds did not always advise customers that a personal pension might not result in as high a pension as could be expected by remaining in their em-ployer's pension scheme.

A spokeswoman for Lloyds said: "A complete overhaul of business procedures took place more than three years ago to ensure that other customers would not, and could not, be similaraffected in the future.

Lloyds stopped conducting its pension transfer husiness when the problems were unearthed. Procedures are in place to ensure that those affected will be fully compensated for any losses which may have arisen in their pension schemes," the voman said.

The bank made provisions of £165m in 1995 for possible compensation payments. This is not just for Lloyds Bank hut also for TSB, which it merged with in 1995, and Lloyds Abboy Life, its insurance subsidiary.

Imro is leading the way in the review ordered by the SIB, having investigated around 77,000 pension transfers made by 46 firms. Imro instigated formal investigations into 23 of these Lloyds, led to disciplinary action. Three cases remain outstanding.

The four other firms to settle with Imro were Godwins, Willis Corroon Financial Planning, Heath Consulting and Alexander Consulting Group. Another firm, Kerr, has been disciplined for pensions mis-sell-ing since 1994. Five of the investigations led to no action being taken while nine firms have received penalties.



Water pledges draw fire all round

Michael Harrison

The privatised water industry came under a fresh barrage of criticism yesterday despite pledging to end hosepipe hans and share future efficiency gains with customers through lower hills or hetter services.

The pledges formed the centrepiece of a "fightback" by nine of the 10 water companies against the wave of adverse publicity since privatisation seven years ago.

Denying that the campaign was motivated by a fear of Labour's windfall tax, the nine publicly committed themselves o "never again" subjecting their 50 million customers to rota cuts or standpipes in the street.
Other piedges included an end to the discharge of un-

treated sewage into rivers and the sea, improved compensation schemes for customers and a drive to reduce leakage rates.

However, the campaign backfired almost immediately after Frank Dobson: Confirmed

give firm dates for when imposing a windfall tax on the hosepipe hans would become a thing of the past or detail how efficiency gains would be divided between customers and

shareholders. Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, said the pledges fell "far short of what the next Labour government will require them to do" and reiterated the party's intention of



the companies were unable to plans for a windfall tax

privatised utilities.

The Government's Environment Agency, meanwhile, said the water industry's record on pollution since privatisation had not been good, adding that it wanted to see more detail of how it planned to turn "its vision into reality" and the timescales involved.

Consumer watchdogs also voiced scepticism. Elizabeth Monck, chairwoman of the Thames customer services committee of Ofwar, criticised the absence of any detailed breakwould be shared between customers and shareholders: "Substantial profits have been made since privatisation and customers are looking for a much clearer message about where the

benefits are coming to them." John Green, managing director of Anglian Water and chairman of the Water Services Association, which is coordinating the initiative. insisted the pledges went well beyond the

BoE threatens to blackball

statutory requirements contained in the water companies' licences. He was unable to give an commitment, however, that the pledges would stand if Labour got in and levied its windfall tax.

The nine companies hacking the initiative are Anglian, North West Water, Welsh Water, Northumbrian, Severn Trent, Southern Water South West Water, Thames and Yorkshire.

However, only four of these - Northumhrian, Severn Trent, North West and Welsh - were able to publicly pledge yesterday that they would never again commitment to end discharges of untreated sewage was equally patchy with some companies refusing to give a timescale.

Brian Duckworth, managing director of Severn Trent, said: The water industry has come in for a lot of criticism and we believe that some of this is justified. Some things have gone wrong hut far more is going right for the industry."

which has been worked out so

painstakingly may quickly find

themselves regarded by others

as beyond the pale".

He said that since last July.

a European Union bank can

lose its licence if it has close links

effective banking supervision.

wards of crime.

Comment, page 17

Warning of lower profits hits TC shares

Magnus Grimond

Shares in TC Group, Britain's largest nursing home operator, sank to their lowest level for eight years yesterday after the company warned that continuing difficulties in filling new homes would hit profits.

The 25p slide in the shares to 114.5p comes just four months after TC was created from the merger of Takare with Court Cavendish to combat increased ompetition in the market.

Analysts were dismayed by the atest news, particularly as TC issued a statement in November claiming that trading and occupancy for the enlarged group had been maintained at levels set out at the time of the merger announcement in September.

The new chief executive, Dr Chai Patel, who moved over from Court Cavendish, said: The underlying business, the established homes, are continuing to do well and at the time we made that statement, that was what we were indicating."

He denied there were diffiBumpe

)ixons

rofits

culties with the merger and blamed the problem on acquired homes, particularly Greenacre, acquired by Court Cavendish last April, along with 13 newer Takare homes built in the past All had been filling more

slowly than hudgeted for in the last three months of the year, but the main impact would be in the current year, he said, "We are starting 1997 with less beds filled than would have liked." Although no new homes will

come on stream after May, following a change of strategy last year, there are still 400 new beds

in the pipeline.

Massey Lopes of Kleinwort Benson said the profits warning was very disappointing. "The problems don't stem from the merger. They stem from the company's position in the mar-ket and its weighting towards newer homes." Every 1 per cent fall in occupancy hit the bottom line by about £2m, he said. He has nudged down his forecast for the year just ended from £19.7m to £18.5m and from £27.9m to £23m for 1997.

The whole nursing home sector has been hit by the continung squeeze on the hudgets of local authorities, the principal source of financing for nursing home residents since the 1993 Community Care Act.

Dr Patel said the continued crisis in local authority funding was at the heart of the issue, with a number of councils warning they were about to run out of money, notably Sefton in Lancashire. But analysts said Takare. whose shares have slid from a high of 289p three years ago, has suffered from its own problems. Forecasts were cut last June after the company warned of problems in filling newer homes. Paul Saper of independent

nursing home analysts Laing & Buisson said TC was suffering from two years of very tight central government budget settlements, hut part of its difficulties lay with the Takare product which was "not good". He said the group had been operating 150-bed units when the rest of the sector had 50-bed homes. while they also tended to lack the

British car makers accelerate world sales despite strong pound

Michael Harrison

Britain's car makers shrugged off the effects of the strong pound last year to record hig in its history exports had outincreases in world-wide sales. Rover said yesterday that

total sales in 1996 hroke through the half-million mark for the first time in eight years. Rolls-Royce meanwhile announced a 12 per cent jump in sales thanks to the success of the Bentley range including its £222,526 two-door convertible, the Azure.

Ford, reported a marginal drop in sales to about 39,000 hut said this was due to a six-month gap during the year when it had no sports car version on sale.

According to preliminary figures from Rover, world-wide

FTSE All-Share 2009.44

the highest since 1988. The company, now a subsidiary of BMW, said that for the first time stripped home demand with 53

per cent of sales going overseas. The growth in Rover's worldwide sales comes as a consolation to the company as it faces up to continuing losses and a de-clining UK presence. Rover's share of the domestic market fell to just under 11 per cent in 1996 with 221,658 cars sold against Jaguar, which is owned by 240,007 the previous year.

Tom Purves, sales and marketing director, said that the world-wide increase had been driven by the success of the new Rover 200 and 400 series, particularly in European markets, and strong demand for the

2043.80 1816.60 3.74 2244.36 1954.06 3.03

2013.66 1791.95 3.68 6600.66 5032.94 2.03

22566.80 18680.38 0.82†

2909.91 2253.36 1.59†

Source: FT Information

STOCK MARKETS

Classe Day's change Change(%) 1996/97 High 1996/97 Low Yield(%)

+16.96 +0.8

+34.77 +0.3

+0.3

+5.29

18680.38 215.81

sales last year reached 506,000 Range Rover and Discovery. both of which set sales records.

Sales in the US were 15 per cent ahead of 1995 while demand was up 50 per cent in Germany and 10 per cent across the Continent as a whole.

Vickers, Rolls-Royce's parent company, said sales rose from 1,556 in 1995 to 1,744 last year. The higgest increase was in the UK where sales rose 29 per cent to 638. Demand was 10 per cent higher from the Americas and 7 per cent up in Japan. A spokesman said that

growth had been due to the introduction of the Rolls-Royce Silver Dawn and the revamped turbo-charged Bentley Brook-lands, which sells for £118,557. Jaguar said it was held back hy the six-month wait between

0.41

Germany 3,19

"Beachmark Indices

0.47

3.19 _

Price (s) Change (s) Change's Fails

the end of XJS production in April and the launch of the new sports model, the XK8 in Öctober. Union leaders at Ford mean-

while voiced their "deep concerns" at a warnings from senior executives that it is preparing to take imminent action to stem huge losses in its European operations. Tony Woodley, the Transport and General Workers' Union chief negotiator for the car industry, said it was clear the company was considering drastic cuts which could have "disastrous consequences".

Jac Nasser, chairman of Ford of Europe, warned at the Detroit motor show, that it was preparing to take "tough steps" because its cost base was not

Long Bond (%) Year Ago

Price (s) Change (s) % Change

65 7.0

7.80

6.81

6.7 Obsons Group 511 27 5.0 6.6 Associd Brit Foods462 5 17.5 3.6

INTEREST RATES

Board Yields

maverick offshore centres

The Bank of England made clear yesterday that offshore centres that fail to implement a new agreement to lift the veil of secrecy surrounding their hanks could find themselves blackballed by the international financial community. The agreement last year

among 140 financial centres was aimed at raising standards of banking supervision and is closely linked to an international campaign against moneylaundering.
Michael Foot, the Bank's di-

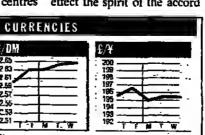
rector responsible for supervision, told a crime prevention conference in the Cayman wholeheartedly to putting into Islands that reputable centres effect the spirit of the accord

might refuse to allow dealings with countries that did not abide by the spirit of the agree-

Banking supervisors from the main industrial countries last year reached a co-operation agreement with the Caymans and 18 other offshore centres including Guernsey. Jersey. Gibraltrar and the Bahamas, aimed at improving the flow of information.

This was endorsed at a meeting in Sweden by representatives of 140 financial centres, which agreed to bring their own procedures up to the same standards as the original group.

Mr Foot warned that coun-tries which "do not commit



Testerby Change Year Ago \$ (Lendon) 1,6908 -2,05c 1 5450 \$ (N York) \$ 1,7125 +2.15c 1.5490 OM (London) 1 5418 +0.07gl 1,4383 # (London) 195,611 -Y3 02 162,127 # (London) 115 695 -Y0 375 104 940

Yesterday Day's dag Year Ago lodes Latest Yr Ago Mest Figs Od Brent \$ 24.39 -0.20 18.50 153 9+2.7pc 149.9 16 Jan Gold \$ 355.15 -3.85 108 9+2.3pc 105.7 27 Jan

🖆 IRISH ERMANENT MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES Notice is hereby given that the following Mortgage Rates are effective from start of business on 1st January 1997. R.10 7.80 London Offices: 141-143 King Street, Hammersmith, London W6 9JG Tel: 0181-748-3334 Fax: 0181-746-3295 119, Kilbum High Road, Kilbum, London NW6 6JH. Tel. 0171-624-5118. Fax: 0177-624-5637 All loans are subject to status. Writim quotations aveilable on request. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOANS SECURED ON IT. A Life insurance Policy may be required with a mortgage. Additional security in the form of a mortgage patrantee policy may also be required. Insh Permanent is an authorised institution under the Benking Act, 1987.

85.5 10.0 Biocompatibles Int 865

- as parent, subsidiary or sister company - with a financial censort of luxuries such as en suite tre whose secrecy laws prevent bathrooms and carpets now demanded by the market. Mr Foot called for similar Mr Patel said occupancy in its cooperation in the fight against established homes remained at the 90 per cent for the old Court Cavendish business and 92 money-laundering, and complimented the Cayman Islands on setting new standards with per cent for Takare outlined in the enactment of legislation to counter its use to hide the re-September. He refused to specify levels for the problem Comment, page 17



Water pledges boil down to so much hot air

They are committed to sharing the benefits of efficiency with customers. But ask them if this means some throttling back in their dividend policies and the response is: "No chance"

The privatised water companies are so unpopular it is bardly surprising their little attempt at image enhancement has gone down like a tump of raw sewage floating off the Cornish coast. When it comes to customer satisfaction the glass, sadly, will always be half-empty for the privatised water industry, not half-full.

Still, yesterday's "vision of the future" set-ting out how much better things will be one of these days is a start, even if the 32 "pledges of action" quickly dissolve into flannel on closer inspection. It might seem extraordinary that an industry whose business is supplying water should actually need to pledge that henceforth its customers will be provided with water when they want it. But it is less surprising when you consider that until very recently Yorkshire Water's motto was you can have the stuff when we've got it.

So the industry is getting somewhere but only at a painfully slow pace and only, one suspects, as the dread prospect of a Labour government and Frank Dobson in charge at the Environment Department looms ever larger. The problem with the specific pledges of action nine of the 10 privatised water firms committed themselves to is that they do not boil down to anything of the kind.

Hosepipe bans will become a thing of the past but only four of the nine can say precisely when. Apart from Severn Trent (which is landlocked) none of them can say with hand on heart that they will never again discharge untreated sewage into the sea.

the benefits of greater efficiency between customers and shareholders. But ask them whether this means some throttling back in their progressive dividend policies and the response is, "No chance."

Even the pledge to reduce leakage rates to levels which are "economically sensible and technically feasible" is not new and in any case will not bear fruit until well into the next millennium. In fact the Meeting the Challenge document issued yesterday is, as Mr Dobson pointed out, groundbreaking mainly for accidentally leaking the Gov-ernment's aim of foisting compulsory meter-

ing on everyone.

The best bit of all is that the Water Services Association bad braced itself for precisely the sort of negative reaction yester day's initiative received. It is nice to see that seven years of torrential criticism has no dented its sense of bumour.

Cleaning up the act offshore

A decade ago, the US resorted to crude eco-nomic blackmail to make some of the more notorious Caribbean money-laundering centres start cleaning up their act. This can work for a time, but as one country is squeezed the crooks move rapidly to another. Recently, the emphasis has been on international co-operation and agreement to bring offshore centres to heel, and this has involved wider group of havens than the Caribbean. Is it working? Hard to tell, because

money-laundering and tax-evasion and avoidance, another serious attraction of offshore centres, are by definition secretive businesses. However, Michael Foot, the Bank of England director in charge of supervision, vesterday dropped a strong hint that there are some laggards out there who are failing to honour agreements made to tighten banking supervision and stamp out money laundering. He made clear in a speech that if they did not pull up their socks they could find their banks banned from reputable financial centres in the European

The Basle Committee on Banking Superision is attempting to raise the standards of bank supervision in offshore centres white the Financial Action Task Force, based at the OECD in Paris, is working to improve cooperation in the fight against money laundering. The most important recen breakthrough came last year when the Basle Committee on Banking Supervision reached an agreement with the Caymans and 18 other offshore centres, including, Guernsey Jersey, the Isle of Man and Gibraltar, to raise standards of supervision and provide much greater information about the activities of banks in their jurisdictions.

This was extended later in the year to 140 countries, which agreed to improve their own legislation and procedures by mid-1998.

It is hard to be sure which are the laggards worrying Mr Foot. Gibraltar, at one stage more of a problem than the Caribbean, has at last tightened up. The Caymans, a British dependency once synonymous with dubious offshore activities, was applauded by Mr Foot - who was there for a conference on financial crime - for passing British style anti-

money laundering legislation last year.

On the other hand, the Foreign Office announced before Christmas that it was prepared to use reserve powers to improve financial legislation in the Caribbean dependencies - presumably meaning the other four. Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands. Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos.

But as Mr Foot admitted, laundering is not just something done in offshore centres. Big money may be passing through laundries much nearer to home - even London, where the laws are tough, but the sheer volume of financial transactions provides the oppor-tunity for crooks to hide their tracks.

Care for elderly in the doldrums

Care for the elderly should, in theory, be the most fantastic growth business, for as everyone knows, we have an ageing population. And one day it surely will be. For the moment, however, it flounders in the doldrums, caught between the twin restraints of swingeing local authority cutbacks and an

with what it really wants. Nowhere is this more apparent than at TC Group, the industry leader. Consolidation in the still highly fragmented provision of elderly care has clearly not been the particeal expected when bid-fever took hold of the sector in the middle of last year. TC Group's warning vesterday that the vice-like squeeze on local authority hudgets was continuing to hit occupancy levels and profits suggests that bigness provides little shelter from the chill

winds currently blowing through the sector. Cynics will argue the creation of TC in October following the merger of Takare and Court Cavendish was a marriage made in hell. The board, a combination of all the directors from the original companies, always looked top heavy. The mechanics of the merger may have distracted management momentarily, but the main problems of TC stem from the legacy of Takare's original and flawed strategy. It could hardly help its hefty skewing towards state sources of income, which are now being screwed down by the Government. But building those cheap and cheerful homes to meet the needs of local authorities looks to have been the wrong approach. The next century haby-boomerswill look for much higher standards for their old-age care than are on offer now. The trickling I to 2 per cent growth in the market now could turn into a flood then, but only a few of the present operators seem to preparing themselves to cope with it.

Retailing: Electrical giant and sports store report big increases in trading as tax changes give consumers more cash to spend

Bumper Xmas for Dixons as interim profits race ahead

There was fresh evidence of the uptum in consumer spending yesterday when Dixons, Britain's leading electrical re-tailer, announced a sharp increase in half-year profits together with strong Christmas trading figures.

However, Dixons shares fell sharply due to City concerns over the potential impact of the planned increase in insurance premium tax on the warranties sold on goods. Analysts said the increase in the tax, from 2.5 per cent to 17.5 per cent, could knock £15m off Dixons' profits next year.

Dixons' chief executive, John Clare, said that Christmas trading was boosted by strong sales of personal computers as well as computer games such as the Sony Playstation and the Sega

Saturn, Computer software also performed strongly with games such as Red Alert and Tomb Raider among the biggest sellers.

Announcing a 53 per cent increase in half-year pre-tax profits to £57.5m, Mr Clare painted a bullish picture of high street prospects, saying that only the forthcoming election might inject an element of uncertainty. "In our markets we saw a pick

up that started in March or

April of last year. You could almost pin-point it to the week. At that time the Tessa money was starting to come out and the benefits of the income tax changes from the previous budgel were starting to come into effect. It continued through the summer and is still there now. There is a bit of a feelgood factor out there and the market will also belp."

However, be did sound a note of caution. "What there isn't is a boom. Consumers are more cautious than they were at the end of the Eighties and not all retailers are benefiting. There are winners and losers out there."

Mr Clare confirmed suspicions that though Christmas had been good for many retailers, Dixons fell sbort of the bopedfor bonanza. Sales at Dixons were strong in the first week of December but then stalled for two weeks. There was a strong run in the final days. It is a pattern other retailers are expected to confirm as they release their Christmas trading statements over the next few weeks.

At Dixons, the strongest per-forming format was PC World, where like-for-like sales inimprovements in the bousing creased by 21 per cent over the same six-month period last year.



Have cash, will spend: Christmas trading at Dixons was boosted by strong sales of PCs

The group plans to open 10 more stores per year, taking the total number in the PC World portfolio to at least 60. However, Mr Clare said the PC market had become more competitive, with more retailers selling the popular multimedia computers.

Dixons shares fell 27p to 511p due to fears over the impact of the increase in insurance premium tax announced by the Chancellor in the budget. War-

ranties and other insurance premiums account for 8.5 per cent of Dixons' group sales and a higher proportion of profits. Dixons said it could not quantify the precise impact but said

it hoped to claw some of the lost margin back through higher prices. "It's too early to say what might happen," said Dixons' linance director, Robert Shrager, Investment column, page 18

JJB Sports sales up 44% on acquisitions

Tom Stevenson City Editor

JJB Sports provided further evidence of a strong upturn in consumer confidence yesterday, announcing "substantially" improved sales figures in the 11 months to December. Sales improved across all product categories in the chain's 170 sports shops.
David Whelan, the former

Blackburn foothaller who started JJB in 1961 with the compensation he received after being stretchered off the 1960 FA Cup final, said: "I am very pleased both with the sales increases that have been achieved and particularly with the progress and development of our superstore concept".

During the 11-month period, sales jumped 44 per cent. largely driven by an acquisition programme that saw 38 stores

added. Like-for-like sales, however, also increased by 12 per cent and the company maintained its gross margin on the

higher turnover, Mr Whelan said JJB's store opening programme for 1997 had started well with contracts exchanged on 27 stores and a further 11 being near to exchange. A new superstore with 21,000 sq ft of selling space is expected to open in Oxford Street in late March.

JJB's shares unchanged yesterday at 295p, at which level they have almost quadrupled since the company came to the stock market in

During that period it has ridden a wave of City enthusiasm for sports retailers that has also seen rival Blacks Leisure's shares soar and JD Sports stage a successful market début. Investment Column, page 18

Endowment plans lose value

Clifford German

Nnrwich Union yesterday underlined the growing trend among life insurers to boost payouts on 25-year endowment policies at the expense of returns on maturing 10-year

A 30-year-old who took out a 10-year endowment policy with Norwich in 1987 and invested £50 a month will get only £9,765 when the policy matures, compared with £10,255 for a similar plan that expired in 1996.

It represents an average yield of 9.4 per cent a year, against 10.4 per cent on last year's ma-

£93,179, an annual return of 12.6 per cent on the investment. That compares with £92,535 paid out on similar plans in 1996 which represented an annual return of 12.5 per cent.

The difference in performance reflects the much higher rates of return Norwich ohtained on investments in the 1970s when assets and dividends were being magnified by high levels of inflation. It also reflects the good re-

turns that investments generated in 1986, the year which has dropped out of the latest 10year rolling calculation.

The return in 1986 was

However, a 25-year policy around 22 per cent, roughly maturing this year will pay out double that achieved in 1996. The 10-year and 25-year ma-

turity values are calculated by adding the guaranteed benefits which are put in place from the day the policies are taken out, annual bonuses awarded at the end of each year the policy is building up and an additional bonus awarded only in the final year before the policy ma-

For the third year running, the annual bonus awarded for 1996 was 2.5 per cent on the guaranteed benefit and 4.5 per cent on the accumulated annual bonuses to date.

in Norwich Union's 10-year

maturity values is still greater than the comparable reduction of 1.2 per cent at General Accident and just over 3 per cent at Friends Provident, and probably reflects the poor performance of property investments which made up a significantly larger part of Norwich's portfolio in the late 1980s.

However, despite the drop in values, a spokesman for Norwich said 10-year endowment plans maturing this year would still cover individual mortgages

Annual bonuses added to unit-linked savings policies are unchanged at 6.5 per cent and The drop of almost 5 per cent at 7.5 per cent on pensions busi-

Interest Free Credit See payment option 2 below

The Ultimate Multimedia deal!

Quick Specification Check

✓ Intel Pentium P120

1080Mb Hard Disk

Fast 64-bit Graphics

Massive Software Bundle

FREE Colour Printer (Limited Offer)

☑ Interest Free Credit

16Mb RAM

☑ Full Multimedia

- 16-bir Sherim Statip 18 ShCA scaren 1086/Alb antancer (106 hard desk 16-bir Sherim Sound, 1856 GCO Spend Col-HOLE gave and Statio

species system

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Sports shares prove a winner

Patrick Tooher

The world's first investment fund to focus entirely on sports shares vesterday announced growth of more than 60 per cent in its first eight months.

The fund, which is managed in-house by Momentum, an investment house, includes in its portfolio leading international sports brands such as Adidas and Nike and top English Premier League football teams such as Manchester United and It was set up to exploit the po-

tential cash bonanza from the introduction of pay-per-view television and the growing de-mand for shares with limited availability such as British football clubs. It also seeks to benefit from the growing trend of sports clubs to be professionally managed.

News of the fund's success came on the day former Liverpool captain Alan Hansen announced a new football investment fund designed to capitalise on the game's grow-

director of Momentum, welcomed Mr Hansen's involve-

which will inevitably boost prices as huying pressure increases in a comparatively thin market," he said.

go public has prompted the Stock Exchange to consider listing them under a separate category, a move which could give share prices another boost by attracting index-tracking

warrants on a new football inemerging sub-sector of the leisure industry".

ment with an as-vet-unnamed fund manager. "We welcome all competition

The rush of football clubs to

And Japanese investment bank Nomura recently issued dex to track the share prices of quoted Premiership clubs. The warrants give investors geared exposure to what it called "this

The Momentum fund covers equipment manufacturers and suppliers, apparel manufacturers and sports clubs. "The rarity of a number of

sports shares continues to con-

IN BRIEF

• The number of corporate insolvencies in Germany reached a post-war record of 25,800 in 1996, according to figures compiled by Dun & Bradstreet.

Western Germany accounted for around 18,000 insolvencies and eastern Germany for 7,700. The latest official statistics compiled by the Federal Statistics Office show a 16.6 per cent increase in corporate insolvencies to 19,073 in the period from January

The US and the UK bave agreed to resume "open skies"

negotiations in Washington, starting 4 February 4 and expected to last until 6 February. However, John Byerly, special negotia-

tor for transportation affairs at the State Department, said the

US was not expecting any "dramatic breakthrough". Deutsche Bank has acquired the 20 per cent stake it does not already own in German private banking arm Bankhaus Grunclius as part of a restructuring of its private and corporate banking division. Deutsche Bank will concentrate the top end of its private banking business in Germany at the Grunelius unit, it said. Outside Germany, where Deutsche Bank manages around DM40bn worth of private customer funds, private banking will

planning to move data-processing operations abroad to cut costs. Spnin's unemployment rate fell to 13.82 per cent in December from 14.04 per cent in November, the Labour Ministry said. The number of jobless in December fell by 35,240 people from the previous month, with the total number of unemployed put at 2.216 million. In 1996 the number of jobless fell by 160,859.

continue under the name Deutsche Bank. The bank denied it was

 Philips Electronics has decided to further disconnect itself from Grundig and said it was demerging its 32 per cent stake. Philips said the move was due to its aim to use a single brand name where possible, and the negative results on its investment in Grundig. Philips said that due to the "rapid glohalisation" of consumer electronics markets, it had decided to move "towards a one-brand policy, particularly in the sound and vision markets." Philips has ing popularity with investors.

firm Momentum's diversified begun talks with the Max Grundig Foundation on unwinding approach," Mr Goldman said.

contractual relations between Philips and the Foundation. begun talks with the Max Grundig Foundation on unwinding the

ADT rejects £2.1bn offer as inadequate

David Usborne New York

The future of ADT the number one home security company in North America and the UK, remained uncertain vesterday after it signalled rejection of a hostile takcover bid by Kansashased Western Resources.

In a letter to shareholders, the ADT board said it had reached a preliminary view that the \$3.5hn (£2.1hn) offer by Westcm Resources was inadequate. It also suggested that it had re-ceived inadequate information about the proposed acquisition.
Based in Bermuda, ADT is

led by the British home alarm and car auction entrepreneur. Michael Ashcroft. Last summer, the company was courted hy another US home-alarm company. Republic Industries, which is headed by the flamboyant founder of Blockbuster Vidco. Wayne Huizenga.

Yesterday's letter suggests that the battle for control of ADT will be a drawn-out affair. In announcing its hid in December, Western Resources signalled its intention to arrange an immediate meeting of ADT shareholders to vote through the takeover and replace the ADT hoard.

Instead, ADT yesterday said that it would be scheduling a special general meeting of shareholders only in July. A notice of the meeting was also sent to stockholders.

The Republic offer for ADT was considerably more valuable for Mr Ashcroft and was priced at closer to \$5hn. It was abandoned in August, however, when Republic suffered an unexpected downturo in its share values. Mr Hoizenga has since concentrated on expanding his rental car interests, recently announcing the acquisitions in the US of both the Alamo and National rental fleets.



Sounding the alarm: Michael Ashcroft, British head of ADT, which looks set for a drawn-out battle for control

ADT is still the largest sup- efits that a combination of the plier of security and alarm equipment and services for commercial and residential properties in the US, with over 1.7 million customers. It is also America's second largest car auction company with some 27 anction centres around the

Western Resources, however, has been striving to grow in the alarm industry. In December it purchased Westinghouse Electric, also a security business, for \$368m. If it succeeds in absorbing ADT it would become almost unassailable as the dominant player in the industry in Britain and the US.

The hostile move against ADT followed several unrequited attempts by Western Resources to hegin negotiations for a friendly merger. Western wrote to the ADT board at the time saying it could no longer ignore the ben-

companies would promise to both their sets of shareholders.

In its letter yesterday, ADT also noted that it would be taking a one-time charge of \$110m arising from its recent acquisition of Automated Security Holdings. The integration of the new business into ADT should hring about significant future cost savings, the letter said. ADT will also report a \$50m gain from a sale of its remain-

ing holdings in Limelight. News of ADT's rejection of the Western Resources offer cast a slight chill on its shares

in morning trading in New York. At the lunch hour, ADT stock had edged down 12.5 cents to \$22.265. Shares in Western Resources by contrast rose 25 cents to \$31,25.

Separately, it was reported yesterday that Ford Motor Company is preparing to sell its Budget Rent a Car concern.

Little warrant for concern at Dixons

It is not surprising that John Clare.
Dixons' white-haired chief executive.
was wearing a Santa-like smile yesterday. Father Chrismas clearly came early to Britain's leading electrical retailer last year. The consumer spending revival finally arrived and when it

ing revival finally arrived and when it did Dixons found that much of its competition, particularly from the electricity

companies, had fallen on hard times.
Dixons' increasingly dominant
position in its sector has worked wonders for its share price, which has soared in the past two years. After dipping to 170p in July 1994, the sbare price has more than trebled.

The buoyancy was backed up by good trading figures yesterday. Profits in the six months to 9 November were 53 per Robert H Lowe, the Cheshire-based

PC World led the way, boosted by the boom in personal computers. But Currys and The Link, Dixons high street mobile phone chain, also did well.

Boosted by the impact of Euro 96 on

With more windfalls from Halifax and Woolwich building society flotations due in the summer, this year also promises rich pickings for retailers such as Dixons. Share payouts of £800 to £1,000 are just the kind of sums that will be traded in for a new washing ma-chine or a swanky PC.

The 27p fall in Dixons' share price to 511p yesterday was down to two factors. The first was that the 8 per cent increase in like-for-like sales over the contribution at the operating level deal. Lowe would like to improve the from Majoca, a corrugated packaging distribution of its sportswear and huy Christmas period was not quite as exciting as the market was expecting. But the main reason is the potential impact of the new insurance premium tax on Dixons' profits. Dixons makes 8.5 per cent of its group sales from warranties so the Chancellor's decision to raise VAT on the policies from 2.5 to 17.5 per cent will clearly hit Dixons hard. At worst it will slice £30m off the bottom line. But assuming Dixons manages to claw some hack in higher prices the hit could be about £15m. But il is the uncertainty - no one really knows how inelastic demand will prove

to be - that has affected sentiment. Should these fears prompt share-holders to take some profits after the recent run? Not necessarily. Some analysts are pointing out that warranty fears over Dixons have been aired before and that the company has always shrugged them off. It is also worth stating that the huilding society windfalls will have a considerable impact. Cash from previous windfalls may bave been reinvested. But with the economy improving things might he different when these payouts arrive in July or August. It is highly unlikely that £15hn is going to be tucked back into safe lit-

Dixons: at a glance

Market value: 52.15bn, share price 511p

Share price

tie savings plans. With analysts fore-casting profits of £195m next year, the sbares trade on a forward rating of 17. Yesterday's fall should be seen as less a cause for concern and more of a good buying opportunity.

Lowe on the acquisition trail

cent up at £57.5m. And like-for-like sportswear maker and packaging sales – the key measure – were 8 per cent higher and the margin maintained.

Robert H 1.0we, the Christiane of the christian vestors happy.

Boosted by the impact of Euro 96 on

replica football kit sales, results for the year to October 1996 make impressive reading. Pre-tax profits rose 78 per cent to £2.4m on turnover 93 per cent

Trading record

Pre-tax profits (£m)

Earnings per share (pence)

Dividends per share (pence)

Sales analysis

£m, 28 weeks 96/97

higher at £30.5m. Earnings per share advanced 53 per cent to 2.3p while the dividend was raised by a half to 0.3p. Profits included a maiden £567.000

business bought for an initial £2.2m in shares two years ago. The results draw a line under Lowe's chequered past.

At one stage in the late Eighties the shares tonched £20 but they went into free fall after a series of disastrous acquisitions, most notably childrenswear group BabyGro, took Lowe to the brink of collapse.

But new management under David. Sehire and fresh financing have given Lowe a new lease of life, though rehabilitation of the shares, as low as 8p three years ago, has been slow. Last night they closed 1.5p higher at 26p. Mr Sebire warned yesterday that fol-

lowing an "extremely strong performance" there may well be a pause in profit growth at the sportswear division until the effects of the 1998 World Cup, to be held in France, are felt. In the meantime, Lowe intends to

make further acquisitions in both the packaging and sportswear divisions to drive earnings forward.

Clearly Lowe has been encouraged to go down the acquisition route again by the success of the Majoca deal, but the strategy increases the risk profile.

The main problem is finding the right

1995 ·

153 59

deal. Lowe would like to improve the

suitable packaging and labelling firms, but opportunities at the right price are few and far between.

Assuming no corporate action, brokers look for pre-tax profits this year of up to £2.9m rising to £3.2m in 1998. though the forward price/earnings ratio remains at 10 as tax losses carried forward drop away. That is a fair reflection of concerns about Lowe's re-liance on acquisitions. Hold.

JJB Sports shows its paces

Yesterday's 11-month trading statement from JJB Sports went some way to justifying the City's enthusiasm for a small band of sports and leisurewear retailers, which have been among the stock market's strongest performers in the past year or so.

JJB shares have risen by 50 per cent over the past year. Since former Blackhurn player Dave Whelan brought the company he founded from a single shop in 1961 to the market in 1995 they have risen four-fold. He and his sonin-law, Duncan Sharpe, still own just over 50 per cent of the company, which is now worth £260m.

In the 11 months to the end of December sales of the shops' mainly branded sports equipment and replica football strips have risen 44 per cent. Most of that growth has come from an amhitious expansion programme, which took the chain from 130 to 170 outlets, but like-for-like sales, the real measure of a retailer's success, were up an impressive 12 per cent.

JJB continues to grow at a good lick, with contracts exchanged on 27 new shops and a further 11 near to completion. A flagship superstore on Lon-don's Oxford Street is scheduled to open in late March.

The key to JJB, as it is to Blacks Leisure and recently floated JD Sports, is whether the recent surge in sales is down to sports clothes being temporarily in fashion, boosted by a cluster of high-profile events such as Euro 96, or whether there really has been a sea change in clothing habits towards sports and active outdoor wear.

Only time will tell. In the meantime, JJB's shares will be valued on the basis of forecast profits in the year to the end of this month of about £18.4m and £23m next time. Those forecasts put the shares, unchanged yesterday at 295p, on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 23 falling to 18. For a rapidly growing husiness that is not excessive, but the shares have paused for breath and look fully valued for the time being.

Christie's breaks the £1bn barrier

Magnus Grimond

The continued boom in the art market sent sales last year by Christie's International, the auctioneers, through the £1hn barrier for only the third time. The 9 per cent rise in sales to £1.02bn took the group to within £313m of 1989's record after strong growth across the board, led by British and Far Eastero buyers.

The figures included the first contemporary artist to top \$10m since the 1980s boom when Willem de Kooning's Woman sold for \$15.6m (£9.5m) in New York. It also took in the record £5.3m paid for an Old Master drawing, Raphael's Study for the Head and Hand of an Apostle sold in London, and two important sales of works by Monet which fetched the thirdhighest auction price for the artist. Le jardin de l'artiste a Vetheuil and Nympheus each sold for \$13.2m (£8m) when the collection of Mr and Mrs Charles W Engelhard, the family behind the minerals group of the same name, was auctioned

in New York in November. Lord Hindlip, chairman, said: "Sales this year have increased by a healthy amount, despite there being fewer large singleowner collections sold than in 1995. The growth was broadly based, with increases in most regions and almost all categories of works of art, reflecting the strength of our international



Ground-breaker: Willem de Kooning's 'Woman' sold for \$15.6m in New York

1980s, last year saw fewer Impressionist paintings and an upsurge in demand from the Far East. Peter Blythe, finance director, said there had been fewer of what he called sec-Unlike the hoom of the ondary quality Impressionist

items selling at lower prices. Some of the less celebrated works of Monet and Renoir, which would have seen very high prices in 1989, had been selling for "more reasonable" prices.

Phillips said sales through its auction rooms had climbed 16 per cent to £114m last year. It said the establishment of a permanent saleroom in Geneva. where turnover was up 49 per Separately, the much smaller cent, had boosted the figures.

Gulf fuels feud in bid for Clyde Petroleum

Tom Stevenson City Editor

The City remained convinced yesterday that Gulf Canada will have to increase the value of its recently launched offer for Clyde Petroleum if it is to secure victory in its hostile bid for the oil explorer.

Shares in Clyde continued to ignore the escalating war of words between the two companies, closing 0.5p lower at 117p, as the stock market conlinued to helieve Gulf's 105pa-share cash offer was no more than a sighting shot. With 19 of the bid's scheduled

60 days elapsed. Gulf wrote to Clyde shareholders yesterday in response to the British compauy's first defence document issued last Sunday. The Canadian bidder said Clyde's defence contained no new information and dismissed it as an attempt to "change the basis of calculating value, abandoning the traditional and widely accepted

approach of net asset value. Malcolm Gourlay, Clyde's chairman, responded angrily to the "very misleading" claim that there had been no new information. He said Clyde had furnished investors with several new pieces of information including an estimate of yearend reserves of 130 million barrels of oil equivalent, a 60 per cent increase on the 1995 figure, a list of targeted projects and details of Clyde's 1997 drilling programme. Beneath the rhetoric, Gulf's

hid has quickly been reduced to an argument, arcane to observers outside the oil husiness, over the correct method for valuing oil exploration companies and a dispute over which measure should best be used as a hasis for calculating the pre-mium implied by the offer price.

In its defence. Clyde asserted that the most appropriate measure of its value was a multiple of cash flow, similar to what some analysts describe as a "going-concern value", which takes into account the ability of a company's executives to add value to current assets via management and acquisition.

Gulf said yesterday that approach was "fundamentally flawed", favouring the use of a core, nct asset value, which tends to produce lower, more conservative values.

Gulf chief executive JP Bryan added: "Oil and gas companies are valued primarily on the hasis of their expected future cash flows. The most appropriate valuation methodology is therefore 'net asset' value' which represents the present value of Clyde's projected future cash flows.

Mr Bryan is understood, bowever, to have told analysts that a fair value for Clyde would be a 25 per cent premium to the company's "goingconcern value. The market bas focused on that measure and applied it to the latest estimate from Clyde's hroker Hoare Govett of 95p to justify

IN BRIEF

• WH Smith Group has finalised all outstanding matters relating to the sale of Niceday to Guilbert (UK). Under the terms of the sale, announced in April 1996, WH Smith received £112m and Guilbert deposited £30m in an escrow account pending completion of the financial accounts, validation of nel assets and the satisfactory performance of Niceday's distribution centre through to June 1997. The final agreement provides for £10.5m of the cash held in inserted to be released to Guilbert, the balance of £19.5m alusi inserted to be released to Guilbert, the balance of £19.5m alusi inserted to be released to Guilbert, the balance of £19.5m alusi inserted to be released to Guilbert, the balance of £19.5m plus interest to be released to WH Smith and the settlement of all possible claims connected with the financial position and the distribution systems. The settlement is within the provisions made in WH Smith's accounts.

 Enterprise Oil has suspended its offshore drilling programme in Cambodian waters following disappointing results in the amount of petroleum found in three wells. Hugh Mackay, Cambodia exploration manager, said: "The volumes of hydrocarbons indicated that there were not commercial reserves in our [offshore] blocks." But Enterprise, which began operating in Cambodia in 1991 and has invested more than \$55m (£33m) in oil exploration there, is hidding to explore other offshore blocks that lie in waters contested by Cambodia and Thailand.

 Bunzl has bought Thinking Plastics and its associated company MDX Plastics for up to \$4.3m (£2.5m). The California-based businesses make proprietary industrial plastic parts particularly for the US tubular furniture and equipment market.

• Reuters Holdings has acquired a 49 per cent stake in Bisnews Information Services, which supplies domestic real-time data and news to the financial markets of Thailand, for £10.6m cash.

• Edge Properties has sold a Cardiff warehouse that is still under construction to Save & Prosper for £6.8m. Although the development is not expected to be completed until April, 23,500 sq ft of the 33,500 sq ft retail warehouse space has already been prelet to Pet City and Byte Computers at £14 per sq ft. Edge has given a rental guarantee of about £140,000 a year on the remaining space for three years should the accommodation remain unlet

• GKN has acquired an 80 per cent sbareholding in Italcardano Universal Giunti, which is based in Milan and makes propeller shafts, propeller shaft components and double universal joints for the commercial, off-highway and military vehicle markets. Financial details were not disclosed.

 United Industries has sold its loss-making Holden Hydroman automotive plastics business to a company controlled by Polytec Kunststofftechnick of Germany for £4.7m cash. In the six months to June 1996, Holden Hydroman lost £588,000 on sales

· Capital Corporation, the casinos operator, warned that fullyear profits would be between £8.5m and £9m, which is below analysts' estimates of £10m to £11m. The company said results in the final quarter of the year had been hit by low levels of 'high roller' activity, and in particular adverse gaming results in December, which overall produced a lower win percentage for

• Whitbread said it will buy five freehold children's nursery sites from the Busy Bees independent chain for £2m. The nursery sites will be operated and managed by Whithread's David Lloyd Leisure unit. The deal makes David Lloyd the largest opera-tor of privately owned nurseries in the UK with 24 sites, Whitbread said. The new outlets will trade as part of Gatehouse Nursery Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of David Lloyd

	Company Results				
	2 reverusT	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend	
Despak (I)	39.4m (35 7m)	Sm (3.5m)	13.3p (9.2p)	4.62p (4.2p)	
Obous Greep (1)	1 06bn (855.7m)	57 5m (37 5m)	9p (5.9p)	2.4p (2.05p)	
Gardand Wholey & Barbar (F)	58.83m (40.13m)	12.66m (5.51m)	11.07p (3.07p)	0.32p (-)	
M&W (F)	118.5m (107.6m)	10.75m (10.89m	10.75p (10.89p)	4p (3.5p)	
Robert Lawe (F)	30 54m (15.84m)		2.30 (1.50)	0.3p (0.2p)	
	24.1m (18.5m)	3m (1.8m)	4.7p (3p)	1p (0.75p)	
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Unilever continues weed-out

Niall FitzGerald, the new Unilever chairman, confirmed his strategy of weeding out non-core husinesses vesterday when the company sold a microbiology division to venture cap-

ital group CinVen. CinVen is buying the professional micro-hiology unit of the conglomerate's Unipath business in a deal worth £84.6m. This includes fresh banking facilities to fund expansion and Unilever yesterday declined to reveal the precise sale price.

Though not technically a management buyout, CinVen Unipath's consumer goods sidiaries into a simpler structure. I frozen vegetable husiness and

will retain the group's existing management. They are also expected to obtain a stake in the husiness which has 600 staff and the recently launched Perrecorded sales of £60m last

The business - which will be renamed Oxoid - is based in Basingstoke and manufactures materials used by hospitals, pathology units and the food and pharmaceutical industries.

Outside the UK, Oxoid also has manufacturing plans in Germany and sales offices across Europe, Australia and

Unilever will concentrate on

sona systems of contraception. Mr FitzGerald, who took over the reins at Unilever in September bas already stated that he wanted to dispose of under-performing or non-core businesses. Unilever sold Mrs Butterwell, an American syrups and pancakes business just be-

fore Christmas. Mr FitzGerald's bas already slimmed down Unilever's group executive committee and plans

to merge some operating sub-

Bioomberg

United Biscuits said it would incur a charge of about £35m for the sale of a string of businesses outside its key UK market.

The maker of McVitie's cookies and KP snacks also said business over the Christmas period was satisfactory and that its 1996 profit would be as anticipated at the time of the in-terim results. The company is retrenching

to focus on its main UK markets after posting big losses overseas in recent years. It has already sold its Ross

United Biscuits sales cost £35m

operation.
"These steps represent a very considerable tidying up and strengthening of our business portfolio and balance sheet," said Eric Nicoli, group chief ex-ecutive. "We now have a healthy balance of progressive established businesses and interesis in emerging markets and we

have a solid platform for further growth." United Biscuits said its latest disposals were a 60 per cent stake in ICA, an Italian snack food producer, an 84 per cent interest in S&A, a Portuguese snack business, and a 46 per

its Keebler cracker and cookie cent stake in Aguia. a Brazilian cookie maker. It also said it closed its Gy-

ori Snacks unit in Hungary and would shed its 30 percent stake in Kargida, a Turkish snacks Alex Leohnis, an analyst at UBS, described the moves as 'tidying up" and said much of the disposals had been well

flagged. On the trading state-ment, he said: "There has been very little they have said over the pasi year and a half that hasn't been as expected." He said the group had been

at pains over the past year or so to prove that it was a stable ship.

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THE INDEPENDENT • THURSDAY 9 JANUARY

market report/shares

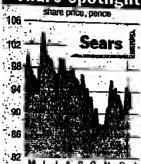
Data Bank Fresh fears for Sears as trading statement is awaited **FTSE 100**

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900.4m shares, 39,001 bargains -Gilts Index -n/a⊹

Share spotlight



for investors.

More than most, Sears desperately needed bumper festive sales have not come up to expectations and analysts will be tempted to pull back profit forecasts again, perhaps from around £100m to £90m. The suggestion is that although Selfridges did well nther parts of the sprawling

perience. Liam Strong, the chief ex-ecutive called in five years ago to mastermind a recovery, is banking on strong seasonal business to halt the flow of hos-

The stock market is nnce again fretting about Sears. The burnhling into the fiasco of its struggling retailing group is duc abortive attempt to sell nearly to produce a trading statement 400 shoe shops to Stephen and fears are growing that it Hinchliffe and for selling the will offer little encouragement Olympus sports business which managed in stage a revival al-

most as soon as it baled out. The group is in talks with trading. But the word is that Littlewoods and possibly nthers about selling its Freemans mail order aperation. Here again tales of gloom have surfaced with stories of any deal being clinched at nearer £300m than the £400mplus many expect.

Nick Bubb at MeesPierson recently estimated Sears' graup had a less successful exbreak-up value at more than 120p. A Selfridges demerger could be worth 45p a share. The shares slipped 2.5p to

Many believe that if Sears



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

into demerging or introducing management changes. The rest of the market had a husy but uneventful session with Footsie up 8.7 points to 4,087.5. The FTSE 250 index continued its recent run with

a 10.8 advance to 4,532.3. Oils were again strong. The majors made further headway but much of the action was concentrated among second-liners with takeover hopes continu-

Wedd chipped in by urging a switch into Cairn from British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate. Bornen, hnwever, was undaunted, up 85.5p to 938p.
HSBC James Capel put a 1,200p target nn the shares.

Legal & General added another 5p to 384p hut the most compelling instrance story in-volved Sun Life & Provident, the UK arm of UAP, the French insurer.

ing to bubble.

Cairn Energy flared 27.5p to a 443.5p peak. A range of in
The shares returned to market in June when UAP sold 224 million at 235p, retaining a 60.2 fluences was behind the jump. per cent interest. The price

secret of its desire in expand, sible circulation benefits from Merchant Retail, which the most likely huyer. Pru gained 3.5p to 500p.

Profit warnings again did the rounds. Capital Corporation, the casino group, fell 5p to 155p (the price was 245p last summer) after reporting prof-its would come out at up to £9m against hopes of £10m-£11m. And TC, the nursing homes group, tumbled 25p to 114.5p on its warning.

Analysts were husy. Associated British Foods crumbled 17.5p to 462.5p as ABN Amro Hoare Govett said sell to 450p; Henderson Crosthwaite made cautious noises about Renters, lowering shares 13p to 719.5p, and Glasso Wellcome retreated 15.5p to 897.5p as NatWest Securities cut profit estimates because of sterling's strength.

chain, remained in the doldrums. Unimpressed by modest director-buying the shares has 32 Perfume Shops and fell sharply with the nil-paid hopes to open 15 this year. rights crashing 21.5p to 25p.

Alvis, the defence group, moved ahead 7.5p to 137p; it

has formed a joint venture for a water jet cutting system. mail order business, came per cent stake. The shares

down somewhere nearer to earth. After surging from 58p in the summer to 2.050p, the Wiggins, the property shares have encountered tur-Mirror Group improved 6p

Mirror Group improved 6p

222 Sp. after Paramuse Ger

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the coming general election.

Northern Foods put on 2.5p
m 212.5p following talk of

Jersey department store, rose good Christmas trading and hopes for improved milk margins; the milk prospect also helped Unigate 9p up to 439p.
Wickes, the do-it-yourself chain remained in the state of the partment stores managed a 3.3 per cent gain. The group

☐ The £3.25m cash-raising exercise by burger maker Whitchurch left Richard Thompson, one of the archi-Lanica Trust, the aspiring tects of Caspian, with a 46.31

	Last year he survived calls for his removal at the yearly share holders' meeting.	fails to show signs of getting its act together this year it will at tract a takeover marauder, or be pressured by institutions There was talk nf a trading link with Shell as well as develop- ments at its Bangladesh oper- ations. Barclays de Zoete	UAP was planning to sell its don put a 250p target on the stake, with Prudential Corposition 274p on rumours in 222.5p after Panmure Gor- don put a 250p target on the stake, with Prudential Corposition 274p on rumours in 222.5p after Panmure Gor-	bulence and were at one time off 425p at 1,400p. But buyers appeared. At the close the price had recovered to 1,800p. down just 25p. S.5p. There was talk of planning approvals coming through. NatWest sold 5 million shares, reducing its stake to 3.9 per cent.
## CT Name	### Actional Convenges ### Ac	be pressured by institutions allows. Barclays de Zoete	Table Tabl	Share Price Data Phose see in steeling access where seased, the yead is lax years conduct, grossed up on the year of the process of the proc

The myth of the upwardly mobile

The Conservative Govcreation of a deregulated and flexible labour market has made Britain the stage for a unique natural experiment dur-ing the past 20 years. The payoff has been, finally, one of the lowest unemployment rates among industrial countries. This has made Britain an example that is starting to tempt politicians on the Continent, especially in Germany and France.

fearful of the electoral consequences of their jobless levels. Yet the experiment has had other, less appealing, results, Earnings inequality in the UK has risen faster than in any country apart from the US. The distribution of men's wages is more unequal now than at any time since comparable records began in 1870. This, too, has a centrated in the first year of work. political cost. The latest British Social Attitudes survey shows that nine out of ten Britons think

incomes is excessive. The political debate over the years about the merits of the Government's labour market policies has been clouded by a lack of hard facts. In particular, growing inequality might not matter if it is matched by growing opportunity, so that a wider meome distribution at any point in time is offset by greater upward income mobility. Britons might have become more like the many Americans who start their career serving in a fast-food joint hut work their way up the ladder, giving more equal lifetime incomes. So, at least, the

the gap between high and low

Government has claimed. The information needed to assess this claim properly is becoming available. A new publication from the Centre for Economic Performance contains the most comprehensive summary so far of research on what impact the new flexibility has had on incomes and job opportunities, at least for men.

The research has been made possible by the availability for the first time of several "panel" data sets. These contain years' worth of information on thousands of individuals, from official national insurance records and from surveys, allowing specific employment and income histories to be tracked.

Recent academic research has therefore been able to present several conclusions about the results of the British experiment. Sobering reading it makes, too. Consider the following conclusions, which economists would call "stylised facts", about the UK labour market. Fact 1: Wage mobility has diminished over time.

The degree of movement up the wage distribution was about a quarter lower in 1995 than in 1980. Most of that decline occurred in the early 1980s but the trend has continued since then. Lower inflation is part of the explanation, however: there is much less movement within the income distribution when increases in incomes are low. Fact 2: Wage mobility is higher for the young and con-

This result is not surprising. hut it does imply that people who do not escape low pay early in their life will find it much harder later. The average per-son gains as much in their income in the first year of work as they add in the next four years. About 45 per cent of men leave low pay in their first working year, and only half as many in

☐ Fact 3: Most people who move up the income distribution do not move far.

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Minister, has made much of the finding that of the men aged 25-34 in 1978/79 whose earnings were in the bottom tenth of the distribution, only 13 per cent were still in that lowest tenth in 1992/93. True, but a full third of them remained in

25-43 year olds, those moving up/down earnings deciles



DianeCoyle

The political debate over the Government's labour market policies has been clouded by a lack of hard facts.

New research makes sobering reading

the bottom three-tenths of the earnings distribution and another 18 per cent were claiming benefits. Just under 16 per cent had made it to the top half

of the earnings distribution. The picture is hleaker for an older age group, aged 35-44 in 1978/79. As the chart shows, there was more downward mobility for this age group. Nearly one in five of the bottom tenth were still in the bottom tenth 15

Earnings mobility

years on, with 37 per cent in the bottom three-tenths. And 27 per cause the level of pay at the botcent were on benefits. Under 7 per cent had climbed into the top half of the earnings scale.

Pact 4: People who leave un-

employment for a low-paid joh have a higher chance of becoming unemployed. In perhaps the most telling

result about the jobs market, only half of the prime-age men who were the lowest paid at the start of the Conservative era still had a job 15 years later, and only 60 per cent of the younger men. Of those who had been unemplayed in 1978/79, 78 per cent (or 64 per cent of the younger group) were unemployed in 1992/93.

There is evidence of a cycle of low pay and no pay," one of the papers in the CEP report concludes. The British figures display the phenomenon American researchers have labelled 'recidivism": those who leave poverty have a propensity to fall back into it.

Fact 5: The fall in entry-level wages has increased the number of two-joh couples.

Pay at the bottom end of the

jobs market has fallen by more than a tenth in real terms since 1980, to an average of just under £100 a week. This has tightened the poverty trap - there is less chance of getting a job that makes it worth giving up bene-fits. One result has been that while the probability of moving from non-employment into work has fallen for single men and women, and married men, it has nearly doubled for married women whose husbands already

work. Increasingly, couples have

35-44 year olds, those moving up/down earnings deciles

Position in 1978/9 earnings distribution

tom of the earnings distribution is too low to support a family or warrant giving up benefits.

The bottom line is that dur-

ing the past two decades, lifetime opportunities have heen no more fairly distributed than incomes at any single point in time.
This depressing list does prompt some fairly obvious policy con-clusions. Paul Gregg, editor of the new CEP volume, focuses on two. First, make entry-level jobs more viable, by reducing tax, for example (as shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown plans to do with a 10p or 15p starting rate). Secondly, getting the unemployed into work is not enough; there is also a need to move people on to higher incomes and to reduce their risk of becoming unemployed again.

However, the existence of a large group of people who stand little chance of leaving poverty and unemployment behind them is not enough to condemn the entire British labour market experiment. To the extent that it has reduced unemployment, greater flexibility is welcome, for those with no job are worse off than those with a badly paid job,

and generally unhappier too.
A greater caveat has to be that the evidence sheds no light on how much the Government's labour market shake-up is to blame for the trend towards greater inequality, nor on how far the trend will go. There is a strong case for arguing that influences far beyond the UK, such as new communications technologies or international trade and investment, account for it. Britain has reacted one way, the Continent another. and each has paid a high price

in either fairness or jobs.

If the world really is a more hostile place for unlucky sec-tions of the population in industrial countries, it might prove a lot easier to limit inequality via taxes and benefits than to reduce unemployment. Little wonder the French and Germans are still undecided about the British experiment,

"Jobs, Wages and Poverty", Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics, January 1997. Price £15.

Move quickly to enter bears in sloth contest

London Zoo is reopening one of its favourite landmarks, Bear Mountain, this Easter, and populating it with sloth bears, a peaceable vet threat-

ened species from Sri Lanka. To mark the refurbishment of London's only realistic mountain range, the London Zoo is appealing to readers for nominations for "two top City bear traders of 1996, or likely candidates for 1997.

Each of the City bears would receive a free sloth adoption, worth around £1,000. The City pessimists would also get a photograph and certificate and a chance to visit the sloths when they arrive. Call Charlotte Phillips on 0171-240 9900 with nominations.

When Richard Branson's trans-world balloon landed with a hump in the early hours of vesterday morning, it wasn't just the bearded entrepreneur's considerable ego which lost out.

City Index, the spread betting specialists, reckoned on Mr Branson and his pals staying aloft for 13 to 15 days, making it roughly threequarters of the way around the world. In the event Mr Branson's thrill-packed eight hours aloft counted as one day, according to City Index. Neil Murphy of City Index

says: "It's a great disappointment. We lost about £800. There were some big sellers but luckily some buyers saved our bacon. About 40 people placed bets."
Mr Murphy was going to

donate all profits from the bets to Mr Branson's nominated charity and, if the Virgin man had completed the trip, he would have doubled that amount.

It was not to he. But Mr Hughes is hopeful. "If Mr Branson's balloon is in good working order, and if the American and Swiss halloon attempts fail, then he may have another go in two weeks' time. We would support him."

Intriguingly, Mr Hughes says City Index thought about

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

taking bets on Kevin Keegan's survival at Newcastle, hut turned down the idea since they knew something was up some time ago and "so did the high-street bookies".

Hanging around: Sloths are coming to London Zoo

The Curzon Partnership, a 10-partner headhunter in London which specialises in City and IT recruitment, has iust hired a singer-songwriter who specialises in Indyrock-soul music.

Ian Hughes, 33, also has a string of engineering degrees from Cambridge and a background in management consultancy, hnt rocking the house is his first love.

"I've played in bands since I was a teenager and I'm never going to give it up," Mr Hughes tells me. So why go into headhunt-ing? "It is an exciting new

challenge for me," said Mr

Hughes. Maybe. If anyone wants to find out whether Mr Hughes can convincingly "rock out", he hopes to get a gig at the Turk's Head in Twickenham. Party on, dudes.

Full marks for the funniest press release I've seen this year: "Many UK companies are not convinced of the real henefits of floormats, according to a recent research report commissioned by leading Dust Control Mat manufacturer WOM International."

You said it. Neville de Sousa, WOM's group sales director, declares: "The number of big and small customers not currently using mats is quite staggering - the deliver loud and clear is that everyone needs them." Consider the message delivered, Neville. And mind your feet.

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Harri

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English Andrea

One of my colleagues was lunching with Zeneca's chief executive, Sir David Barnes, and other company higwigs yesterday, and was interested to find that these lunches are held in a bijou flat within Zeneca's London head office.

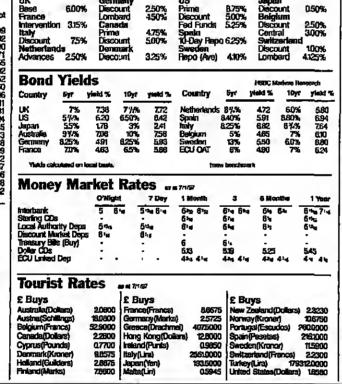
It transpires that Zeneca has four such mini-flats within the head office. When it converted the huilding two years ago, Westminster Council directed that it would have to have a mix of residential as well as husiness

Not that you could huy a flat inside Zeneca. They're all used for company entertaining. I'm not sure that was what Westminster Council had in mind.

I'm happy to mention that it was the freelance illustrator, . Daniel Taylor of Fulham, who drew the cartoon of Jimmy Herbert, Britain's oldest full-time stockbroker, that we used yesterday.

John Willcock

Position in 1978/9 earnings distribution Foreign Exchange Rates D-Mark 38 35 1000 164-166 13684 203-163 15628 640-608 52773 103-123 15358 281-276 1530 65-61 12421 42-36 32-200 655-556 59597 240-226 17551 381-270 64590 4.1324 84.1465 4.4563 0.8658 0.8109 4.9522 1.5967 0.9016 2.3998 0.8982 80-270 | 64580 5-13 | 13150 690-580 | 69642 239-228 | 13590 15-25 | 12872 240-183 | 77391 0-0 | 24984 155-168 | 14083 0-0 | 14037 19-69 23-31 152-101 19-114 33-35 2-7 80-85 97-99 5-9 70-65 160-90 3-13 220-160 85-76 10-16 93-52 0-0 64-71 0-0 222.93 11.806 2.2937 2.1482 13.120 4.2354 2.3886 6.3576 2.3797 Other Spot Rates #47/199 77.8000 0.3850 400799 26.3200 156.790 3.6407 5595.00 4.6690 27.5200 3.6731 rate quoted low to high are at a premium;

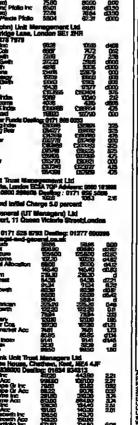


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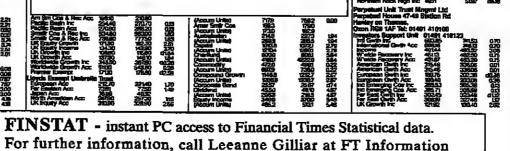




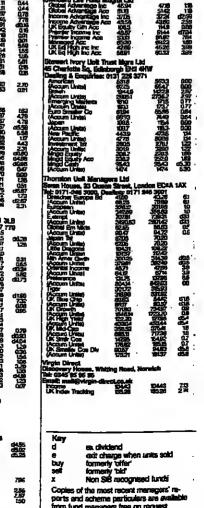
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A more extensive list of Unit Trusts and May

aged Funds, ranked by performance with each sector and including offer prices, is published in Saturday aditions of the India

Punters

waged !

Intest Two English BUSINESS * Clubs linked with Suker

Footbali

RUPERT METCALF

Davor Suker could be on his way to England, according to media reports in Spain. The Croat international, who has estahlished himself as one of the world's top strikers, has had a fine season with Real Madrid, hut it seems that every player has his price.

Manchester United and Arsenal are said to be interested in huying Suker and his Real Madrid colleague, Predrag Mijatovic, a Montenegrin forward who plays for Yugoslavia. There has been no response from either English club to confirm or deny the reports, which add that Arsenal officials are expected in the Spanish capital to watch Real Madrid's Spanish Cup game with Real Valladolid tonight before meeting the two players tomorrow.

Asked yesterday about the alleged interest in his Balkan strikeforce, the Real Madrid coach Fahio Capello said: "Everybody wants players from Real, it's normal, and the English now are the clubs that have got most money of all." The Italian has already made a hid for the Monaco striker, Thierry Henry, and may be about to approach his former club, Milan, for the services of George Weah if he loses one or both of his cur-

The Spanish transfer market closes for the season next Wednesday, so any deals are likely sooner rather than later. Barcelona have denied reports that terms have been agreed with Middleshrough for the sale of their Spanish international defender, Miguel Angel Nadal.

rent front line.

The other First Division club in Barcelona, Espanyol, want their former player Adrian Heath as their next coach, ac-

cording to more Spanish media reports. Heath, now manager of Burnley, said: "I have heard the rumours of unrest at Espanyol, but my managerial career is very much in its infancy and I am very happy with the joh I have

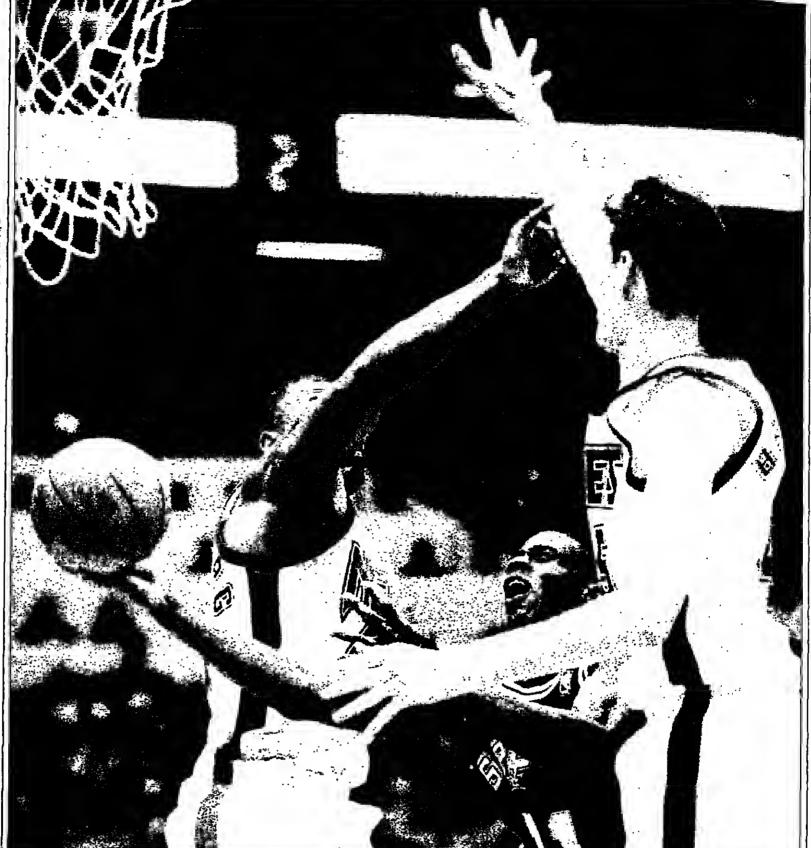
at Burnley."
Grimsby Town have confirmed that their caretaker manager, Kenny Swain, will remain in charge at Blundell Park for the rest of the season. Swain took over after Brian Laws was sacked in October.

Liverpool have denied that their England midfielder Jamie Redknapp may be off to Italy in a move to Roma. An Anfield spokesman, Ian Cotton, said: There is no truth in the story that they have made a bid. Roma have expressed an interest in Jamie hut we have told them he is not for sale."

Reading's Australian defender, Andy Bernal, has been saved from a five-match ban after the referee Richard Poulain admitted, after watching video evidence, that he was wrong to send him off against West Bromwich Alhion on Boxing Day. Bernal's red card, which was his third of the season, for his clash with Albion's Paul Peschisolido bas heen changed to a yellow card.

Benito Carbone, Sheffield Wednesday's £3m record signing, could be out of action for several weeks because of a groin mjury. The Italian will definitely miss Saturday's home match against Everton, as be will have an exploratory operation today, hut his absence could be several weeks depending on the extent of the injury.

Also seeing plenty of the surgeon's knife is the Everton midfielder John Ebbrell, wbo will have a sliver of bone removed from his ankle this week and will be out of action for up



Vernon Maxwell, of the San Antonio Spurs, splits the New Jersey defense during the Nets' 90-74 victory in the NBA

Ferrari passes its test

Motor racing

Double world drivers' champion Michael Schumacher yesterday tested Ferrari's new car for the first time. Ferrari launched the new car, the F310B, vesterday in Fiorano, haly, close to the team's Maranello headquarters.

"Schumacher has driven 12 laps without problem and he is very satisfied," a Ferrari spokesman said. The car will undergo eight weeks of initial testing and possible modifications before the Formula One season opens with the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne on 9 March. Meanwhile British designer John Barnard, the man primarily responsible for designing Ferrari's F1 cars over the last decade, hopes to remain with the team despite the arrival of fellow Briton Ross Brawn as technical director.

Barnard, whose F310B car was dubbed "a red Williams" because of its similarities to the Renault-powered car, denied he was poised to leave the team, His contract ends this year, but he has started talks already about a new deal even though he admitted he would be attracted to a new challenge if Frenchman Alain Prost succeeded in buying Ligier to set up a new all-French team.

I want to stay in Formula One and I would like to continue working with Ferrari," Barnard said. "But I cannot say yet what the future will hold. I would he very interested in working with Alain, but that is altogether another matter.

"For now, I am hoping to form a good relationship with Ross and to work well with him. I think he will be taking some of the weight off my shoulders."

Brawn's arrival at Ferrari reunites him with Schumacher with whom he worked for four years at Benetton, during which time Photograph: AP the German won both his titles.

Punters' war waged with a slingshot

Greg Wood on the organisation aiming to end taxation without representation

of racing's great and good had donned black tie and ball gowns must be: I bet they didn't. Not, to dance the night away at a at least, while Singer and his West End hotel, but there was rather less standing on ceremony yesterday as representatives of the people who, ultimately, foot the hill for many of the turf's smartest functions gathered to meet the press in a pub near Victoria station.

When the National Association for the Protection of Punters was formed several years adequate the system for "proago, there were many who hoped they would quietly fade away. Yet thanks to the efforts of people like Michael Singer, the chairman and, in effect, a full-time, unpaid worker for the organisation, NAPP is still doing what it can for everyone who is backing in Britain. Funded only by subscriptions (£10 per annum). Singer and his companions face up to the bookies' lohbying organisations with their telephone-number budgets and attempt to highlight the scandalous lack of protection available to customers of one of the country's major industries.

By now, NAPP's activists are well used to official indifference, a losing £1 win double, had been but even so, a letter sent to the organisation on 30 December by Rodney Brack, the chief executive of the Levy Board, was little short of an insult. The Levy Board is the organisation which administers the £50m raised though experienced settlers from each year from deductions with-

in the punters' betting "tax".

Brack was responding to 2 letter from Singer, dated more than two months earlier, requesting a meeting to discuss Levy Board funding for an organisation to represent the in- you like - to arbitrate in disterests of punters. After all, as putes. Sonny Purcell, meanthe NAPP chairman pointed out, "this year's Annual Report shows that the Bookmakers when it is next due for renew-Committee received funding al, though if NAPP persuades to the amount of £266,000. How bookmakers can receive this money when punters, who pay the Levy, receive absolutely nothing . . . continues to be

Secretary Control of the Control of

a matter of grave concern." isations within the bookmaking foot soldiers deserve our thanks industry [and] ... none of them and support.

Less than 24 hours earlier, many supported the idea." To which companions are overwhelmed by complaints from backers, who are not even required to join the organisation before their problems are investigated. "There are so many queries and problems," Singer says, "hut we are increasingly forced to put things on the back-burner."

As an illustration of how intecting" punters is, consider the case of Charles Robarts, who took the bookmaker Sonny Purcell to the Tattersalls' Committee, betting's high court, in pursuit of £11,000. The Committee found m his favour, but when its deadline for payment passed at midnight on Tuesday. Robarts's winnings had not appeared.

Or the disappointment of a

woman in South Shields who placed a 50p each-way accumulator on the first six of Frankie Dettori's seven Ascot winners. When she returned to claim £4,500, the bookmaker informed her that a clearly separate bet written on the same slip. taken as having been included in the Ascot bet. More scandalous still, The Sporting Life's Green Seal committee, a self-appointed and anonymous body, agreed with the bookie, even have stated that the accumulator is clearly a winning het.

NAPP would like to see an independent ombudsman similar to those overseeing the while, can expect to find his betting permit under threat the local magistrate to remove it, it will be the first time a permit has been refused simply for

The campaign for a better deal for Britain's punters from those who spend their money ordinary. "I have consulted with will surely be a long and diffithe main representative organ-cult one. Singer's shoestring

Control of the state of the sta

LINGFIELD

12.30 Hawali Storm (nb) 1.30 The Frisky Farmer 2.00 Enlisted

2.30 KITTY KITTY CANCAN (nap) 3.30 Yet Again

GOING: Standard.

STALLS: 61 & Im - ontode, remainder - budde.

STALLS: 61 & Im - ontode, remainder - budde.

ORAW ADVANTAGE: Low often best for 61 & 61.

Lett-hand, sharp reams (Endurate surface)

Course to southeast of town on B2023, tengical station (served by Landon Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: One enclosure 50 CAR PARE: Club 53; remainder free.

I LEADING TEAINERS WITH RUNNERS: A Moor — 42 winners from 404 runners gives a success ratio of (0.4% and a foss to a \$1 level stake of \$42.2% & L Moore — 10 winners, 296 runners, 11.5%, \$58.42; R O'Sqill'van — 19 winners, 272 runners, 14.3%, \$582.72; M Johnston — 36 winners, 22 f runners, 16.4%, \$48.22.

SEC.72; M Johnston — 36 winners, 22 i runners, 16.1%, \$ (8.22)

ELEADING JOCKETS: I Dettor! — 73 winners, 201 rides, 27.2%, \$50.1.52; J Wenver, 57 winners, 307 rides, 21.8%, \$510.15; E Cochrance — 17 winners, 268 rides, 71.8%, \$21.00; J Quinn — 37 winners, 530 rides, 7.0%, \$209.78.

BLINKERERI FIRST TOME: Dr Edgar (2.30), Trible Pet (12.30, visor), The Frinky Farmer (1.30, visor), Daratown (2.30 visor).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Yet Again (3.30) won here on Thursday, LONG-HISTANCE RUNNERS: Madonna Da Rond (1.30) & Dr Edgar (2.30) have been sern 238 miles by M Dods from Piercebridge, Co Durham: Shontales (12.30) & Double Creat (2.00) sent 270 miles by M Johnston from Middleham, North Yorkshire; Madrina (1.00) & La Dolce Viza (3.00) sent 261 miles by T D Barron from Mannly, North Yorkshire;

12.30 REDGAUNTLET SELLING STAKES (CLASS 6) (DIV 1) £2,375 added 7f Penalty Value £1,649

1996: Ster Taken (USA) 5 6 12 R Coorane 10-11 Niss Gly rearrays 10 ran FORM GUIDE SHONTAINE would certainly hold these mails on our judged on his wins at Doncaster. Newcastle and Cathenols. With that son of last-ground form, Shormaine should nevel on this fast of was ground form, Shormaine should nevel on this fast of last-ground form, Shormaine should nevel on this last of which are should nevel on the stranger of the stranger of the proposed upon now that Jason Wedner takes over. Shormaine does have an all-weather win to his name - delying a big weight in a Southwell handcap over holds to be in November - and these weight terms give him the look of a solid bet. Lancastler Lagrad won a maiden here a November and the eyestheid he has worn on two subsequent stans is despended with. A week at the law, he initiated fourth to Smithteress in an appropriate handcap here and emerges with an outside chance at the weights meeting Shormaine (third) 7th better for just had a length. That weight put is increased by Nan Daly's 5th cham, but Lancastrie Legend ran too bady here last time to threatine Shordaine this time with Weaver taking over. On the form here behind Smithersens, Statisticials has every chance, but he is a dodgy outsomer who makes no appeal. Harwell Shorm, who meets Shormaine on universitate terms, is a sound old campaigner in good enough form to warrant an each woy bet. Seb Sanders taking over from Jo Hunnarn on Mystary Metathas suggests a good run from the fifty after Samuday's fourth to Sharp ling here (6f), white Mattan has promeed much better trangs and Forgal Lynch is an interesting boolong for the getting, whose last run was in a hurde (guiled up) at Newbury.

1.00 GUY MANNEFING CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 5f Penalty Value £2,726 2001.6 PAIACRAITE MCN (21) (D) Brading Memors Ltd C Dwyer 6 9 3 F Lyoch (3) 5 00002-3 BOFFY (5) (D) (Sin Bugh 9 Baugh 4 6 11 R Perham 3 6 5000-23 KRYSRAL MAX (1) (CD) (The Owlfied Nursense Protestripe I D Barron 4 6 11 Visionia Appliety (7) 7

WOLVERHAMPTON 12.30: 1. FLAMBOYANCE ID Hamson 11-2: 2. Setberry S.11 lax: 3. Feyrn 7:1-9 ras. 7, 4. () Fanshave, Newmarkoy, Totas: f6.30; £1.80, £1.10, £1.60. Dual Foreast: L4.70. Computer Straight Forecast: £10.57.

Tno: £12.10. 1.00:1 COLD STEEL (S Sanders) 5-1; 2. 1.00: 1. COLD STEEL (S. SONGES) 5-1; 2. Silenta Creek 12-1; 3. Stourcough 4-5 tav. 8 ran. 2, 1½. (W. Janus, Normarkel). Totar 54-50; 11.70, 12.40, £1.00. Dust Forecast £33.20. Computer Straight Forecast: £57.19.
1.30: 1. ULTRA REET II Weaver) 2-1 fav. 2. Kelter 4-1; 3. Krystal Maer 7-2. 12 ran. 1½. ½. (P. Hastam, Middleham). Totar £3.20; £1.60, £2.40, £1.10. Pual Forecast: £10.60. Computer Straight Forecast: £10.60. Computer Straight Forecast: £10.77. True: £12.80. NR: Lulu.

RACING RESULTS 2. Colestial Choir 9-2: 3. South Eastern Fred 5-1, 3 ren. 15-8 lin Paheen (6th). 21. 9. U Banks, Newmarkett, Total: £10.40; £1.50, £2.90, £1.60. EF: £19.10. CSF: £44.83, Incast; £189.63, Tro; £55.30, MR:

2.30: 1. SOTONIAN (J Brammil) 20-1; 2.

Chemicast 6-1; 3. Ramsey Hope 13-2. 2 ren. 3-1 jt-favs Shadow Jury (4/ht, Master Of Passion (6th), 1/r, 11/r, (P Felgare, Lisburn), Tota: £24.80; £2.30, £1.50, £1.60. Pusi Forecast: £68.TQ, CSF: £126.06, Troass. £812.43, Tno; £63.40, NR: Alpaz. 3.00: 1. LOCK STYLE IF Lynch 4-1: 2. Catepino 3-1 p-tax; 3. Bon Secret 5-1: 13 ran. 3-1 p-tax Spencer's Revenge, 2, 39: 48 Holinshead, Upper Longdoni, Tota: 56.50;

2.00: 1 ROYAL ACTION IN Vingham 8-1; 12.10, £1.50, £2.20, DF: £37.70, CSF: £19,35, Trib: £46,90 3.30; 1. GOLDEN HADEER (A Clork) 13-8; 2. Rood Music 25-1; 3. Noufarl £3-2, 9 pp. 6-5 Ew Beaumon; (5th. 7, 10, IM Ryan,

> (214.88, Tro: 456,70. 4.00: 1. SECOND COLOURS ID Hamson 6-1; 2, Super High 11-2; 3, Golden Fouch 6-1, 8 ran, 3-1 fav Barrei Of Hope (4th), 4, 8. (M Pipe, Wellington). Total £6.30; £2.20. £1.40, £2.30. DF. £18.50. CSF: £37.25. Trcast, £191.92. Tno: £64.80. NP North Reel Jackpet: Not won. Pool of 19,434 43 carned forsard to Landed lodey.
> Praceport £33.30. Quadport £27.10.
> Place 6: £52.18. Place 5: £41.86.

Krystal Max ran at Wokerhampton yesterday - he has never won there - and is now on a track where he has notiched three wins. A credinable staying-on third to Utira Beet yesterday, hystal Max hive won for kimberley Han, so his chance looks bright for Victiona Applieby, who node him yesterday and also when a nack second to Any Leigh at Wokerhampton last week. Five furlongs is PALACEGATE JACK's optimum tinp, so his defeat over themoton's six last time can be excused. He rates a snip on his previous second to Portend in a 17-harner Southwell headscap and, with Fersal Lynch toking off 3th, the eeld Portend in a 17-furner Southwell hendcap and, with Feigal tynich toking off 3b, the golding could set these all a task with his translating style. Lift Boy turned over the hot favorance
inherent Magic in this claimer lest year and he shaped well in fournit to Utha Beet in a handicap here a week ago. He is a shade too close to Palacegate Jack and Krystal Max at these
weights, shough. Jack Berry's Madrina was a maden winner here in November but seems
wherable on her subsequent handcap eighth to Bokt Effort here. Also, she ran badly at
Worverhampton last time, finishing a long way behind Botty Isacord to Amington Lassi, who
himself locks held by Krystal Max on subsequent form on the same track.

Settention: PM ACEGATE JACK

		Selection: PALACEGATE JACK
1.	30	REDGAUNTLET SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) (DIV II) £2,375 added 7f Penalty Value £1,649
		ASTRAL INVADER (T) (C) IM S Saurders) M Saurders 5 8 12
2 5	-00000	PORSOTTEN DANCER (10) (Roger Ingram) R Ingram & 8 12
3 3	30000	GREY LEGEND (236) Uan Reckly R Planty 4 8 12
		HI CHE SABA (USA) (5) (D) (D) Kright M Madavid 5 8 17 D Harrison 6
		MHLOS (20) (CD) IR A Poorty 7 J Naugroon 6 8 12 J Weaver 1D
6 5	30004-	RAGAZIO (55) (50) (5 Protesser) J Warmingto 7 8 12 L Charnock 3 8
7 3	55004	THE FRASKY FARMER (25) (G.) Bushi W Turner 4 6 12
8 4	X560-	FAIR ELIA (20) IMSS Julie Reoves) G L Moore 5 8 7
		FANCY DESIGN (5) (Mrs V M Harris) P Marchell 4 8 T
10 84	0.000	GOLDEN SILVER (5) (D G Sprackland) J Moore 4 8 7
11 0	0320	MADDINGA DA ROSSI (133) (The Smith and Atlan Gib, Reining Clab) 14 Dods 4 8 T
12 0	00050-	SHERMOOD (5) IN F Saurders) in hory 4 8 7

- 12 dectared - SETTIME: 6-4 littles, 7-4 Ties Frisky Farmer, 8-1 Fair Bits, 9-1 Madoess de Rossi, 12-1 Astral inveder, Ragazzo, 14-1 Boidon Séver, IG Chi Saga, 18-1 Shermood, 20-1 others.

MBLOS won a reality competitive claims here a year ago when apprentipe-indden - his found win on the course - and this seller tooks his for the taking in the hands of Jason Wedver, Back from the tild to frisch a creditable fifth of 16 to Mr Nevermand here in November, Millios faifed to deliver when joint favounte in Speedy Classad's handicap here afrewards, but this seller affords man an even better chance. The Pristly Parmas, winner of a seller at Leosett in March, ran in first time bithiers when fourth to Apollo Ped in a handicap here four weeks ago, He naw goes in a vision with every chance in the light league, it has been two years strice Ragiazzo won a handicap over this course and distance for Nen Currungham-Brown. He has the same inter leafly funding Chamicola and would have to be considered in this league on his latest five-length fourth to Deoph Vale in a claimer. The dark horse in the race is Palir Elfa, who could just come on for her run behind Pather Dan over a longer run here three weeks ago – her first start for Carly klowe since showing only modest form as a three-year-old for John Pfitch-Reyes. FORM GUIDE

2.00 QUENTIN DURWARD MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO 1m Penalty Value £3,485

O4 JOLLY MANSON (20) Mrs. A Visienteria R Aveluasi 90 5 Senden; 5
2 ROYAL ATT (67) (Emergi Horse Abentung SRU P Meterus) 90 Mil Wighins 3
06.040-2 SERBHADE (7) (Ansets of Wasford Mil Roynes 90 6 Bendenil 1
55 DOUBLE (2023) (26) (The 3rd Modeletin Partnership Mil Linison S 9 Meterul 1
2 EMUSTED (26) (The Greg Sr Max Prescribes 9) Mil Linison S 9 C Meter 5
033-2 PATEMA (5) (SF) (Execute Sud Little R Hollmare of 8 9 Flynch (3) 2
55 TROM (20) U.P. Marsa, Collect 9 Smart 6 9 7 Technol - 7 declared -SETTINE: evers Enlisted, 5-4 Royal Aty, 8-1 Double Crest, 10-1 Johy Juckson, 12-1 Train, 14-1 Pad-

SETTING: evens Ealisted, 9-4 Royal Aty, 8-1 Double Crest, 18-1 July Jackson, 12-1 Tress, 14-1 resses, Seressée.

1996: Wes Dram 3 9 0 W Newres 7-4 ill Cordy 12 ran
FORM GUIDE

Royal Aty, a 56,000grs Royal Academy coft, made his debut in a £10,250 maiden at the san Siro, traly, in November and went down a longth and a quarter when second of strinners. That form could woll be good enough, but preference is given to EMUSTED, who hade so norrowly on her Wolvernampton introduction had month. Sir Mark Prescut's Sader's Welts fifty, who fetched 56,000grs as a yearing, was easy to back but failed by just a head to catch No More Pressure and the form has been boosted significantly by the subsequent successes of third-placed Superbelle and the fourth, Effencescence (active of three). Double Crest, toth at Wolverhampton, so lengths behind my selection, should be able to win a race in the course. John Jackson, a clase fourth to Feather Bet here recently, can again get the better of Trois, who was real backed but firested helf a length behind in fifth. Like Double Crest, both can win a race when Sang easier company. Patition and Serenade have both made the frame on the all-weather but are up against it in this company.

2.30 TALISMAN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added Im 2f Penal-ty Value £2,641 A Clark 4 B

ble March, 12-1 Daratown, 14-1 Dr Edgar, Multi Franchise, 16-1 Can Con Charlie, 20-1 others. 1996: Explosive Power 5 9 5 T less 5-1 (G Benveryl 14 ran

FORM GUIDE

Syrion Dow has struck form with three winners in recent days and SUITOR went close for the stable over course and distance on New Years Eve when second to Adamton, beaten a length and three-twarters. He finished two end a half lengths in front of Kitty Ritty Cameria and reoposes 5tb beaten, as Alain Daly put up that much overweight. Suitor goes up 50 inton Saturday and he managed a thirt of 13 to Manayas for William Lanks at Catterior, when rated 8th higher back in August. That was over a longer tip and, as a half-brother to Weld, one would expect him to stay well, but he could have run in the closuring 13-funding handleap and the fact that Dow keeps him to this trip land avoids in-horn Yet Again looks significant. Maldhall is also well handleapped, as he is due to go up 3tb. That is for finishing second to Tawarde A week ago and the fact that that winner is a stable-mate to the selection suggests there is confidence behind Suitor. Mediate failed by the minimum margin to beat Waldia Beach over occurse and distance last time. He has very chance on that sharing and can hardly be said not to stay the tips on that evidence, but it is a long time since he won. Ex-trish Squire's Occasion is interesting on just his second flat run for Reg Alehust. – he wen over hurdles at Ascot in November. Alain Daly nides him today instead of Suitor, while my nap is nidden by Seb Sanders, Squire's Occasion's jockey on his debut for Alehurs. hurst - he won over hurdies at Accel in November, Alan Daly ndes him today instead of Suftor, while my nap is ndden by Seb Sanders, Squire's Occasion's jockey on his debut for Alvehurst at Rempton in September, Darathown is one to watch in the betting with a light weight and wearing blinkers in his first hendicap, while Double Marich's first to Quet Arch nere a week ago was more encouraging than some of his earlier efforts. Can Can Chartie is well held by Shoraz on recent efforts, while Brian Gubby's pair. Tribel Peace and Mutil Franchisto make limited appeal despire being proven performers on the surface, but Dr Edgar, blink-ered first time, is another worth watching in the market.

Selection: SUITOR

3.00 WAVERLEY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 310 6f Penal 621231. JUST LDUS (5) (CD) IA Prote W Turner 9 12 (7co) D Sweeney (5) 5 224200 PETRE DANISEUSE (48) (Briding Matters Lath C Dwyer 9 7 C Dwyer 6 DD: LA DOLCE VITA (82) (Septren Woods) 7 Barrior 9 7 C Dwyer 6 DD: LA DOLCE VITA (82) (Septren Woods) 7 Barrior 9 7 C Dwyer 6 DD: LA DOLCE VITA (82) (Septren Woods) 7 Barrior 9 3 17cd F Lynch (8) 2 5443.3 PORGOTTEN TWICES (850) (7) Light Corol 7 Turner 8 0 DD: LA DWIE (187) (M W Lawrence) P Evers 8 1 J Quins 4

IVANHOE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 5f Penalty Value £2,563

1 105422- BROUGHONS FORMINA (2) (00) (Control Gay & Ayero W Musson 7 9 10

Hopes rise for turf return

Hopes are rising that racing on turf will resume at Musselhurgh tomorrow followed by Nevertaries. Total: £2,40; £1.10, £5 70. £1.10, DF: £40 90 CSF: £38 09. Treast Newcastle on Saturday. Today is the 11th successive racing day with action confined to the allweather tracks.

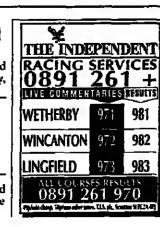
> However. Ascot's two-day meeting scheduled for Friday and Saturday is in grave doubt. If it is lost, then the £35,000 Vic-10r Chandler Chase will be run at Kempton on 18 January.

With Leopardstown's card taking centre stage on Saturday,

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Madrina

(Lingfield 1.00) NB: Royal Aty (Lingfield 2.00)

the Tote will break new ground by operating a placepor on the first six races at the meeting.



A HERO OF OUR TOON: The son of a Geordie miner fired an unfulfilled dream for fans of Newcastle United. Phil Shaw reports

Keegan a master of grand populist gesture

evin Keegan talked and spent himself into a po-sition where anything less than the championship, which Newcastle United last won 70 years ago, would be regarded as failure.

After an outlay of £60m on players in less than five years, Newcastle needed to be running away with the Premiership as they appeared to be doing this time last year lus.ead they stand fourth in the table, five points off the pace alben with a game in hand, and the self-imposed pressure of Keegan's position became intolerable.

If the timing of his resignation was surprising. Newcastle having scored 10 goals in winning the last two home games, the announcement was not entirely unexpected. In the same way that Keegan was liable to make sudden moves in the transfer market, he showed repeatedly that he was sensitive to criticism and prone to acting on his volatile emotions.

Local journalists were amazed how agitated he became when critical letters appeared in the Newcastle Chronicle, but the most glaring example came after the match at Leeds last April. By then Manchester United had all but sealed the title. A strained-looking Keegan said in a cracked voice that Alex Ferguson, the United manager, had gone down in his estimation because of his alleged use of psychological warfare.

Many who witnessed the outhurst regarded it as confirmation that Ferguson had reeled in Keegan, hook, line and sinker. The runners-up spot, Newcastle's best position since 1927, was scant consolation - which in itself highlighted the extent to which Keegan, in alliance with Sir John Hall, had raised expectations on Tyneside.

Strange as it seems now, he was an unexpected choice to succeed Ossie Ardiles at St James Park in February 1992, when Newcastle lay second from the foot of the former Second Division.

Having bowed out of football, the sum total of Keegan's involvement in sport had been to play golf in Marbella for seven years. He told one reporter: "If He read out only 10" names anyone ever hears that I'm comSince the player he offsitted to



Kevin Keegan faces the press for the first time as Newcastle's manager in 1992, while (inset) he loses his composure in response to comments by Alex Ferguson, whose Manchester United side had just overtaken Newcastle at the top of the Premiership last April

ing back to football full-time, they can laugh as much as I will. It'll never happen. That's for certain." But Hall, a multi-millionaire

who was relatively new to foot-ball and unaccustomed to being ball and unaccustomed to being turned down, recognised his Messianic qualities. Their backgrounds may have appeared dissimilar, yet both were the sons of Geordie minera, and Keegan confessed that he had secretly nherished his highly of returning to the artificial days.

Before, his first ginne in charge, at home to Bristot Cary, Keegan announced his feath to

Keegan announced his team to an expectant press conference.

mention, Alan Neilson, was a in the vocabulary of either Hall, defender, hindsight might con-

strue it as a Freudian slip.
The gate almost doubled to nearly 30,000 that day, and Newcastle won 3-1. After an early falling-out with Hall - Keegan threatened to quit when promised funds were not forthcoming to buy Brian Kilcline he revamped the side and managed to avert relegation to the Third Division by virtue of victory at Leicester on the final day. Twelve months on, Keegan's

first full campaign also ended against Leicester. This time Newcastle won 7-1 and were crowned champions. A hanner pro-claimed him "God on the Tyne". Consolidation did not figure

whose vision was to turn Newcastle into a sporting institution on a par with Barcelona and Milan, or Keegan, whose target of the championship seemed almost prosaic by comparison. Three and a half seasons, a

million replica shirts and a couple of near misses later, the silverware has still not come to the North-east. Keegan's pursuit of the Grail has been relentless. Two years ago, he took the extraordinary step of selling Andy Cole, the fans' idol, to Manchester United for £7m. He eventually used the money to buy Les Ferdinand, paying a further £7.5m for Faustino Asprilla a year ago. Although Keegan vehe-

mently disputed the theory, the signing of Asprilla, a Colombian striker noted for his maverick tendencies, self-evidently unhalanced a team who were by then 12 points clear. It now transpires that last summer, in the wake of Newcastle's "failure", Keegan offered to resign hut was talked out of it.

He revived his own and public spirits in his trademark manner. by spending heavily on an attacker. Asked if he had any reservations about lavishing a world-record £15m on Alan Shearer, Keegan answered flippantly but tellingly: "I like huying players. He might have added that he was also partial to grand populist gestures.

integrating the stars he bought into a team pattern; the nitty-gritty graft on the training ground that comes naturally to the likes of Ferguson and George Graham. That involved coaching ability and tactical awareness. By inviting Mark Lawrenson to work on Newcastle's defensive short-

comings. Keegan was tacitly ad-

mitting he did not possess either. The top-heavy look of his line-up - with one of two weak goalkeepers and a ponderous back four, embellished by flamboyant forwards like Asprilla and David Ginola - remained an indictment of his preference for style over substance. Prior to the

What he was less good at was festive period, they had gone seven games without a win and have not won away for three months.

That is not to say Keegan was no more than a PR man or a cheque-book manager. When it all fell into place, such as the 7-1 annihilation of Tottenham or the rout of Ferencearos in the Uefa Cup, Newcastle could be an irresistible force and an exhilarating sight.

In statistical terms, a 55 per cent win rate during his 249-match reign makes him St James' most successful manager ever. The trophy cabinet suggests otherwise. For Keegan, who knew nothing but glory with

team, the best of Manchester

United under Matt Busby. "Too

much mind will make the game

less attractive and may eventu-

ally destroy it. Busby once said. Mind did not figure greatly in

Keegan's philosophy. Adven-ture, football as the glory game,

did and the thrilling sight of it filled Newcastle's fans with op-

timism. Last season's disap-

pointment when Manchester

United made up 12 points to

take the championship was over-

taken when £15m was spent to

acquire Alan Shearer. But, with

that one record purchase. Kee-

gan put his foot in a hucket. He

could not afford to fail again.

Was it simply disenchant-

E. KEEGAN'S

Liverpool (1971-77): League Championship 1972-73, 1975-76, 1976-77; FA Cup 1973-74; Ueta Cup 1972-73; Hamburg (1977-81): Bundesits 1978-79. Newcastle (1982-84): Second Divi-sion 1983-84.

England (1972-84) 63 caps, 21 goals

Managerial honours

reastie (1992-97): First Divisio 1991-92 Second Division

FA Cup: Third round. League Cup: Third round (Newcastle out of both competitions before Keegan's arrival) 46 29 9 8 92 38 96 1

FA Cup: Fifth round, League Cup: Third 1993-94 Premiership 42 23 8 11 82 41 77 3 FA Cup: Fourth round. League Cup:

1994-95 Premiership 42 20 12 10 67 47 72 6 FA Cup: Shith round, League Cup: Fourth round, Uefa Cup: Second

38 24 6 8 66 37 78 2 FA Cup: Third round. League Cup: Fifth 1996-97 Premiership (to date)

21 11 4 6 38 22 37 FA Cup: at home to Charlton (th round replay). League Cup: Fourth round, Uefa Cup: home and awey to

Major transfer deals

Barry Venison Liverpool £250 Aui 92
Robert Lee Charitron £700 Sep 92
Scott Seltars Leads £700 Mar 93
Andy Core Bristol City £1,7mMar 93 Damen Peacock QPR Marc Hottiger Ston £500 All 84
Philippe Albert Anderlecht £2,65mAug 9Paul Hison Deby £2,25mSep 9-

£6.7m Feb 96

Alan Thompson Bolton Kevin Scott - Tottenh sanct, was of another time. It was of Real Madrid in the 50s and 60s, the Tottenham Douhle

Alan Thompson Botton £250 Jul 95
Kewn Scott Tottenham £850 Feb 94
Anny Cole Man thd £7m Jan 95
(exchange with, Gälespie)
Alex Mathle Ipswich £500 Feb 96
Paul Bracewelf Sunderland £100 May 95 Bany Venison Getatasaray£750° Jun 95 Ruel Fox Tottenham £4.2m Oct 95 Scott Sellars Bolton £750 Dec 95 Marc Hottiger Everton £700 Jan 96 Damen HuckerbyCoventry. £1m Nov 96

Expenditure since February 92: £59.77m Income since February 92: £21.195m

First and last teams

Keegan's first team as Newcastle manager v Bristol City, 8 February 1992, at St James Park

Steve Watson, Gavin Peacock, Llam O'Brien, Kevin Brock; David Kelly, Terry Wilson (David Roche). Result: 3-0. Scorers: Kelly 2, O'Brien

v Charlton, 5 January 1997, at The Valley

Shaka Histop; Steve Watson, Darren Peacock, Philippe Albert, John Beres-ford; Robert Lee, David Betty, Peter Beardsley, Lee Clark; Les Ferdinand, Alen Shearer.

He was at odds with a policy alien to his nature

There were enough revealing imaves of Kevin Keetan in times

Overwhelmed by specifics. Nor defeat at I ivermed For him the

Overwhelmed by specifics. Nor defeat at I ivermed For him the

Overwhelmed by specifics. Nor defeat at I ivermed For him the ages of Kevin Keegan in times of disappointment and frustration to suggest that he would not have a long career in foothall management. Indeed, the only surprise about his decision to re-

overwhelmed by specifics. Nor. like some in the profession.

surprise about his decision to resign yesterday was that it came later rather than sooner.

In Keegan's case it is not enough to conclude that pressure imposed by the responsibility of massive investment proved in-

could he lean on rage.

Volatile, the inability to conceal his innermost feelings manifest in emotional outbursts,

defeat at Liverpool. For him the joy was not only in victory hut in the manner. That Keegan even enter-

tained management astonished many who knew him. There was no question that he wanted the joh at Newcastle. A larger question was how long he would continue to want it. This season he has often seemed moodily uncertain.

Following a loss at Leicester, Keegan denied BBC television an interview on the grounds that he had been let down last year over the reporting of an incident at Manchester City involving the Colombian international, Faustino Asprilla. After a recent defeat at Coventry, he left without a word to waiting reporters and was seen staring hlankly from the windows of the darkened team hus.

Keegan was an expedient footballer rather than gifted. He had good feet, a strong body, quickness, drive and the determination to make the most of every opportunity. Management

at the man who said he never wanted to manage

required different things from him but not a different set of values. His way or not at all, which led to an early conflict with Newcastle's ambitious benefactor. Sir John Hall, and maybe was at the

root of his resignation.
The appointment, unique in English football, of a former Liverpool team-mate, Mark Lawrenson, as defensive coordinator carried the suspicion of interference. Even when Tottenham were crushed 7-1 to end a run of seven matches without a victory, Keegan was curious-ly uninspired, perhaps already convinced that it was time to

end his association with the club. One night some time ago, on the eve of the Grand National and a match Newcastle had at Manchester City, I was invited

Rich potential remains for

that he had frequently argued against the idea of hecoming a manager. "This was different," he said. "I couldn't resist the challenge hut I don't expect to be doing it all my life." On telewhile playing golf with Alan Shearer, I heard him say some-thing similar. The difference was We can only imagine the ef-fect of Hall's statement – subthat he did not appear to be

thinking very far into the future. Football tells anyone who watches intelligently about the times in which we live: about managed news and corporate politics, about what the process of pressure does to strong men. Television makes every living room an arena. If that is what you want for your living room, televised sport can be thrilling. hut the focus on managers has become so intense that we are left in no doubt about their emotions, lips moving in profanity, a winner's joy, a loser's despair.

The handshakes perfunctory. Talk is another kind of mask. to dinner with Keegan and his coaches in a hotel just outside questions with other questions

pronouncements. Others become lovers of silences. Keegan has always worn his heart on his sleeve, sensitive to criticism as he was revealingly last season when needled by Alex Ferguson vision recently, interviewed at a critical stage of the champ-

sequently denied - that Newcastle must win something this season, on Keegan. But it surely prompted his offer to resign following a Boxing Day de-feat at Blackburn. By then it was perfectly plau-

sible that Keegan was at odds with a policy alien to his nature. Once he accepted grudgingly that a more secure formation was necessary, he was lost. Adrift of the leaders, his team was neither one thing or another. Every day, as autumn deepened into winter, he must have thought seriously about

turning his back on it all. The exhilarating boldness that characterised Newcastle's best

ment that prompted Keegan's resignation? Or did he turn away from the man who, more than anyone else, represents the idea of football as hig husiness?

The reason is less important 'He was one of us. It is just

like being at a death' A CITY UNITED

It was already a grey day on Tyneside as the news broke. The grey suddenly turned black as the clouds over St James' Park seemed heavier and the raw wind that little hit

For the hundreds gathered outside it appeared the sun would shine no more. The man they all loved had gone. No one seemed to know why. No one seemed to understand. But they all felt they had to come to the

ground.
"I have been crying all the way across here," said 41-yearold Paul Atkinson, a jewellery shop manager in the region's other success story, the Metro Centre and also a season tick-"I heard it on the local radio.

I am totally shocked. Part of the club has died today. I just had to be here. I honestly can't think of anyone who can replace him. He was one of us. It is just like being at a death. Even the massive club shop

had joined in the sombre mood. There were sale signs on the outside and little sign of action inside. Shop staff had appar-Glenn Moore ently been told not to give their reaction. It was a family affair

IN SADNESS

and they were united in their private grief. The whole mood of the city was the same. Local radio had suddenly become a sound check for the Samaritans, with one dis-

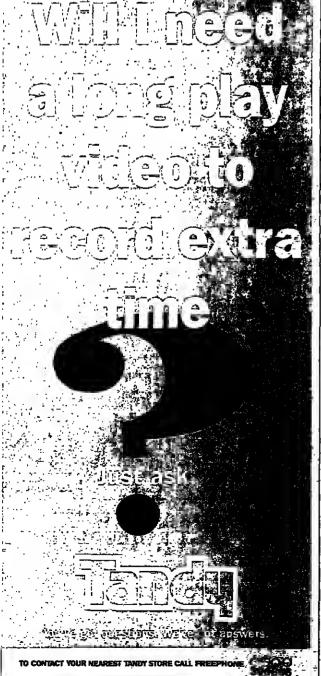
traught caller after another. traught caller after another.
Gazing towards the main entrance 66-year-old retired upholsterer Ray Young said. "It is a sad day. But I think Mr Hall has pushed him too far saying you must win something. Ferry you must win something. must win something. Ferguson went for years without winning anything and now look what's

Standing nearby was Les Clydesdale, aged 58, a television broadcast engineer from the city's desirable Jesmond area. "It is not a big shock," he com-mented. "He has been very un-happy in the past few weeks so h is not unexpected. He is not the greatest in the world. If you talk to the more knowledgeable supporters he has made tactical mistakes. The sale of Huckerby, no reserve team. But he is still God and I would

mous Strawberry Puh only yards from the Gallowgate End had heen hrisk. "It's been busier than usual but it has been like a wake," said barmaid Joy James (37). Punter Doug Cown, aged 37 from North Shields. said: "We haven't got the full story yet. He wanted to stay until the end of the season. We should get to the fifth round of the FA Cup at least, we're off to Monaco in March, the League is still anybody's and we have already beaten Man United 5-0. For the moment we are all going to get very, very drunk

Mrs Alison Wilkins, 31, who had travelled up from Hartlepool as soon as they heard the news,

Sunderland fan Craig Thompson, aged 26, said: "I am claied. He was supposed to have been the Messiah but he has turned out to be a waste of money. Peter Reid has won as many trophies and that's only the First Division title."



successor as manager CONSEQUENCES FOR THE CLUB

No one can deny Kevin Kee-gan the right to walk away. Foothall management carries extreme pressures - witness the resignations of Kenny Dalglish and Steve Coppell, and the heart attacks suffered by Graeme Sourcess, Don Howe and, tragically, Jock Stein.

But Keegan may be acting as much in Newcastle's best interests as his own. He is the only person who could have lifted Newcastle so far, so fast, and re-ignited the passion of a region in doing so. He may not, lowever, be the man to take them that extra step. Keegan is a fine motivator of

men hut such an approach, if not allied to astute tactics, will only carry a side so far. His laudable desire to see attractive football has not only shown in his spending and playing policies, it has also been reflected in results. Newcastle have lost matches a more prag-matic approach would have It has made for wonderful

entertainment and for many

Newcastle fans that is enough.

But expectations are now so

high that many more want tro-

Now there are even suggestions that his motivational powers are waning. The tale doing the rounds in Newcastle yesterday was that his Christmas present from the team was a dummy, to replace the one he kept spitting out. If true it sounds an affec-

tionate joke more than a hitter jibe but his habit of praising the team to the heavens, or condemning them to the depths, would not have worked with every player. You seldom hear Alex Ferguson criticise his own. Then there was the uncer-

tainty caused by Keegan's inability to decide on his hest XI and how to play them. This will be the first task for a new manager. If that is done quickly Newcastle should recover more rapidly than Liverpool did af-ter Dalglish walked out. The team is top heavy with forward talent and has an average age of more than 27 hut it does not require drastic surgery. Only Peter Beardsley is over 30.

Beardsley may not last long

if Dalglish does take over - and

what an irony his apppointment would be. The new manager, whoever he is, may not he as indulgent of David Ginola and Faustino Asprilla as Keegan.

It is hard to see Newcastle remaining contenders for this year's championship hut they cannot he written off. As Arsenal have proved, managerial instability does not always induce collapse. Like Arsène Wenger, Newcastle's new man will have the rare advantage of taking over a side well-placed and rich in potential. Long term, Newcastle ought

to remain in the élite hut much depends on Sir John and Douglas Hall. Sir John's backing of Keegan was as much emotional as practical and he is unlikely to form such a close bond with his replacement. Newcastle are thought 10 be fi-nancially stretched at present and Keegan's departure will not help the imminent share

The Halls pulled off a masterstroke when they appointed Keegan, now they must show the same inspiration with the selection of his replacement.

مكنا من الاعل

still like to see him here.

said: "My husband is still waiting outside the ground. We are all very upset. We have even got a cockatiel named Keegan."

Ron Clarke

"It's in my mind. I have spoken to Brian unofficially to check his

availability because people like

him should not be ignored. I rate

him very highly and apart from

anything else, good backs coach-

any approach to Ashton would

undermine the position held by

Les Cusworth, a backs special-

ist who also sits on England se-lection. it was difficult to

imagine the tormer Leicester

outside-half greeting the news with cries of unhridled joy. The

England threequarter line has

not been helped by flawed back

row selection this season but

their inability to complete even

the most basic passing move-

ments in the pre-Christmas pan-

tomime with Argentina left

Cusworth fielding plenty of flak.

vote of confidence from the

Rugby Football Union secretary

Tony Hallett, who comprehen-

Bolstered by an unequivocal

Although Rowell denied that

es are thin on the ground.

did not talk like a condemned

man as he announced a 30-man

Five Nations squad at Twick-

enham. Indeed, he took the bull

by the horns on a number of is-

sues, notably the growing trend among First Division clubs of

fielding teams containing as

Acutely aware that home-

grown outside-halves, open-side flankers and middle jumpers

were becoming more difficult to

track down, Rowell urged a re-

think on selection policy at club

STAND-OFFS: M Catt (Bath), A King (Wasps), P

Table manners: Sweden's Fredric Hakanasson (right) meets Ronald Vijverberg during the English Open table tennis champinnships at Kettering Arena yesterday

Chapman may have been

commodating 12 matches at a

time - teemed with activity as

a strong international field and

the best of British veterans and

in a tournament which is to table

The drawing power of the

English Open, first held at the London Club, Baker Street, in

1922, had been strengthened by

its inclusion in the Internation-

al Table Tennis Federation's Pro

Tour, which was established last

season. As well as \$50,000

(£30,000) worth of prize-money,

few Englishmen as possible.

Rugby Union

England's rugby hierarchy may undergo a significant new year re-

vamp before the Five Nations'

Championship kicks off in 10

days' time but, contrary to the

scare-mongering stories of last

weekend, Jack Rowell's position

as coach is secure. The only

change under consideration is the

introduction of Brian Ashton, the

highly respected tactician who

ended his seven-year association

to Bath in 1989 and worked

closely with him for five years be-

fore taking over the England

reigns, gave the clearest possi-

ble indication yesterday that his

old cohort might not need to pay

too many visits to his local social

security office. Asked if Ashton

might join the national set-up in

a coaching capacity, he replied:

Rowell, who brought Ashlon

with Bath oo Monday.

CHRIS HEWETT

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Section 1

First and last teams

SUPPLE 13

French Open champion, Sergi Bruguera, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to progress to the quarter-finals of the Sydney International and maintain a superb start to 1997. A second straight appearance

in a final is now a realistic target for the determined British No 1 who is now ranked No 24 in the world.

Henman reached the final of the Qatar Open in Doha oo Sunday where he lost to the former world No I Jim Courier, achieving his New Year's resolution of competing in a tour fivictories away from a second chance to claim his first ATP Henman attributed his battling success against Bruguera

Tour victory. to mastering his serve in the tricky windy conditions. "I am probably serving a little bit bet-ter than I was 12 mooths ago,

with a little hit more expericnce," Henman said. "So wheo there were really hig points to be played I was able to come out and win those points. That translates as me winning the match in the end instead of Sergi."

Henman, who oow faces American Alex O'Brien in the last eight today, is confident of success. "You have got to def-from the world No 38. initely believe in yourself and whenever I am playing a match nifer Capriati moved into the

years his junior. But his name ways," he said with a chuckle.

at the cavernous Kettering Are-

na this week before tomor-

staying over in Kettering, and

morning, he said yesterday.

adding rather defensively: "I

One of his next fixtures is a re-

gional veterans tournament in

Kettering. He has already booked his accommodation. "You could

had some other things to do."

row's first round proper.

Sadly, the 62nd English Open was scratched from the list of

world title in March. But where, for my match at nine in the tennis.

table tennis championships

lacked an outstanding per-

ready knew that the defending champlon, Kong Linghui of

China, would be absent, plotting

Tournament organisers al-

Henman battles past Bruguera nal in 1997 at the earliest pos-now I do believe that I have got sible opportunity. And despite a punishing trav-

qualifying matches taking place missing, but the Arena - ac-

Chapman had had lo go the best of British veterans and home. "I wasn't prepared for juniors strove for advancement

a chance against most players," he said. "It's just a quesel schedule from the Middle tion of conceotrating and

playing your own game, and hopefully that's ecough." East, the 22-year-old is only two O'Brien will provide another stiff test, however, having also cojoyed receot success on the ATP tour, rising from 285th in the world rankings last July to 37th in the latest list. He beat Henman in their only previous meeting, at Maochester in the summer of 1994.

Goran Ivanisevic, the top seed, overcame the hiccup of only winning four second set points to beat Spain's Javier Sanchez in Sydney. The bigserving Crost, ranked No 3 in the world, won through to the quarter-fioals 6-4, 0-6, 6-4 after struggling against a gusting wind and meeting stiff resistance

ning in 90 minutes.

Luc Alphand, of France, the downhill World Cup leader, confirmed he would be the favourite to win Saturday's men's downhill on home snow in Chamonix when he clocked the fastest time of the

Mike Rowbottom

in Kettering for

table tennis's

62nd English Open

ior the luctative 11 12 finals.

will he held in Manchester,

of a strong field headed by last

over Canada's Rene Simpson.

No 1, showed that he is in the

mood to win a second Aus-

tralian Open title wheo he beat

Michael Stich in straight sets at

the Colonial Classic exhibition

tournament in Melbourne yes-

five-week break, beat the Ger-

man 6-4, 7-5 io the first round

of the eight-man tournament,

the final warm-up competition

Boris Becker, who eoded

1996 with five titles, a place in the final of the ATP Tour

Championship and a victory in

the Grand Slam Cup, made a

slow start before winning his

first-round match 7-6, 6-I

against Andrei Medvedev of

Ukraine. Becker trailed 2-5 in

the opening set before win-

which starts oo Monday.

Sampras, refreshed after a

Pete Sampras, the world

Saive, of Belgium.

Jansher Khan, the world No 1 from Pakistan, has been fined £1,000 and suspended for one month by the Professional Squash Association as a result of his late withdrawal from last month's Mahindra International Chal-

leam tick, drafted him back after an absence of 18 months. "Lawrence Dallaglio has been playing open side for us but on the blind side for Wasps and perhaps that has taken away the

gently require a specialist open-

side link player to make the

game in England could eventu-One player who does have an opportunity as a result of yessharp edge a No 7 needs," Rowterday's squad announcement is ell said. "Neil was outstanding Neil Back, the undersized but against Toulouse and looked astonishingly combative Leicesback to his best. We need to get ter flanker. His performance on the link going and if we can't do that through the hig men, we'll the held against Toulouse in last Saturday's Heineken European just have to look elsewhere." level. "The clubs have their own Cup semi-final so overshad-To that end, the selectors have

ENGLAND SQUAD FOR FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

sively scotched reports of Row-ell's imminent demise, the coach them to pursue and pick whoever it that the selectors, who ur-

they like," he said. "But it's not

uplifting from my point of view

to see talented young players

signed to clubs who are unlike-

ly to give them a chance. The

ally be strangled by this."

BACK ROW: T Rodber (Northampton), L Dallagio (Wasps), C Sheasby (Wasps), N Back (Lecester), R Hill (Seracens), B Clarico

given themselves three options.

They could stick with Dallaglio the space of six hours on 21 to the space of six hours on 31 Janfor the Calcutta Cup match with uary. The first will be against Scotland's second string at Har-Scotland on 1 February, switch lequins, the other against the the Wasps captain to blind side and give Back his sixth full cap strong Otago province from New or, more adventurously still, Zealand at Bristol. Despite his chastening expeaward a debut to Richard Hill, the untested Saracens flanker who is

nowhere near as experienced. Elsewhere, the squad is much as expected. Darren Garforth and Will Greenwood, two more in-form Leicester men, are included; Garforth replaces Victor Ubogu, the Bath prop, while Greenwood was said by Rowell to he a live contender for a midfield place. The logiam in the centre is now even harder 10 ease, especially as Phil de Glanville, the Bath and England

significantly bigger than Back but

captain, is close to full fitness. Ubogu joins three of his frontrow club-mates - Kevin Yates, John Mallett and Gary French in a 40-strong England A squad

rience at the hands of the Argentinians, Rowell was upbeat about England's prospects for a third Five Nations title in succession. "No one was happy with what was achieved against the Pumas, hut you have to remember that anyone can have a day when things fail to go to plan. Manchester United have days when they just don't play. So do the All Blacks. What pleased me was that we dogged it out and won the game.
"We are rebuilding a side

while changing our style and that is a difficult and painful thing to attempt, but I don't see why we can't get there in the relative short term.

Rowell safe but Ashton threatens Cusworth Scotland drop four for Five **Nations**

sport

Scotland's selectors have dropped four players from the 21 chosen for the 29-22 win over Italy last month for the Five Nations opener against Wales at Murrayfield a week on Satur-

Left out are the experienced lock Damian Cronin, No 8 Eric Peters, prop Barry Stewart and scrum-half Derrick Patterson, while the flanker Ian Smith is unavailable because of a broken tbumb.

In come the scrum-half Gary Armstrong, prop Tom Smith and back-row man Rob Wainwright after injury, while there are also recalls for flanker Peter Walion and lock Shade Munto.

"The hard fact is that Peters and Cronin have been dropped," the team manager. Arthur Hastie, said. The selectors felt that they were un-

der-performing." Stewart is left out after heing capped against New Zealand in the summer and against Australia in November, "Our feeting is that Barry has reached a plateau and we have recommended that he be played in the A side," Hastie explained.

The selectors have not yet named their captain, but it scems certain it will be either Gregor Townsend, who led the Scors in their three autumn matches at Murrayfield, or Wainwright, Scotland's skipper last seasoo.

Davey Haslett is the favourite to succeed Murray Kidd, who has resigned as Ireland's coach "with regret". New Zealander Kidd was appointed as the country's first professional coach in October 1995.

Haslett is currently coaching he country's A team as well as the Dungannon club. Also in the frame is Harry Williams, the former Ulster and Ireland A coach currently with Bective Rangers in Dublin.

The former All Black Mike Brewer, captain of Blackrock College this season, has been Kidd's assistant with the national squad and would offer some sort of continuity if he were to succeed his compatriot. But because of his obvious close links with Kidd, he may not be acceptable to the IRFU.

Ireland's opening Five Nations' Championship match Road on Saturday week, which gives Kidd's successor very little time to integrate with and prepare the players.

Kidd's record of three wins in nine matches with Ireland was very poor, but one school of thought suggests he has been made a scapegoat.

France signalled their intention to return to their freeflowing style with the appointment of the former international full-back. Pierre Villepreux, to assist the coach, Jean-Claude Skrela.

SCOTLAND SQUAD (v Wales at Mi 18 January): Backs: G Armstrong SCOTLAND SQUAD Iv Wales at Murrayfield. It Jamassy: Banker & Armstrong Irlowdastiel, C Chalmers Irleinsel, R Erikason Itondor Scottishi, S Hastings, Watsonians, K Legio ISoring Col., 2 Radpath Irleinsel, R Shopherd Irleinsel, A Stanger Irlawck, R Stark (Melassel, & Townseld Worthampton, Forwards: G Blis ICumer, D Nillion (Bath), K Redection Isoring Col., 2 Monroe Grey, A Reed (Waspo), T Smith (Watsonians), M Stewart Inorthempton), R Wallowright (Wot-costel), M Wallows (GNO, P Walton (Neu-castel), G Weir (Newcastle),

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of successive doubles that Steve Beaton, the defending champion, missed while still managing to beat Geoff Wylie 3-0 in the second round of the Embassy World Darts Championships at Frimley Green.

Thomas Cook

* The 67-year-old maestro gives youth a chance Disappointment, 100, for BBC's Grandstand, which plans qualifying match to Cecile Ozer of Belgium. Main domestic interest centres on Britain's No 1, Matthew But at this stage the Open of-fers different things to different Syed, the shaven-headed 26to televise the event live on Satyear-old whose unusual and urday and would dearly love the exciting defensive tactics cause top Briton to feature in his procompetitors. Nigel Eckersley. one of Britain's leading veterans, the sport's aficionados to come jected second-round match with is simply revelling in the atmosphere. "Realistically I won't qualify." said the 44-year-old over all misty-eyed. Sweden's Peter Karlsson. For many of those so stren-Syed, however, was an uneasy uousiy involved yesterday dered whether to have a local from Lymm in Cheshire. "But second round proper is likely to if I can get away with winning a

qualification points are at stake While that may not be sufficient to attract the likes of the Chinese so close to the biennial world championships - which

anaesthetic to ease the same hip injury which caused him to "It's very important to me to

play after what has happened in their first British venue since the last two years," he said.
"There would be a lot of dis-1977 - it has assured the event appointment for home sup-porters if I pulled out again." year's world No 1, Jean-Michel

be a match too far. For 19-yearmiss the last two British Opens. No 8, the event offers an in-

old Gemma Schwarz, England's valuable opportunity to widen her international experience. "It's important for us younger ones to learn how to play against foreign competitors, she said after losing her initial

can't go on to your seventies." As Mr Chapman will attest...

couple of malches I will have

done well. One of the heauties

of table tennis is that you very

rarely get injured. If you keep yourself in reasonable shape.

there is no reason why you

born pareots, Caddick had an

Caddick is by no means the

only England player desperate to

prove be has a part to play in the

cannot afford a slow start while

Jack Russell, put out to grass in

Zimbabwe almost from day one.

needs to sparkle both in front of

and behind the stumps. All three

of them seem certain to play to-

morrow, although England are

unlikely to name the team until

the morning of the match be-

cause of injury doubts over

Robert Croft (sore foot) and

Graham Thorne (calf strain).

big matches this winter. Cork

obvious alternative route.

Caddick has a point to prove Cricket

MARK BALDWIN

reports from Auckland

Andy Caddick is aiming 10 leave two sets of selectors wondering whether they have made a hig mistake when England lauoch their tour of New Zealand tomorrow.

The 28-year-old Somerset seamer left the country of his hinth in 1990 because he believed he was making no progress up the Kiwis' cricketing ladder. And, for before the Australian Opeo six weeks in Zimbabwe, Caddick must have experienced similar feelings as England ignored him for two Tests and three one-day internationals. Now, however, he is about to get the chance to turn back the clock just a little and

start all over again. With Dominic Cork on board once again after missing stage one of the winter following the breakdown of his marriage, the

during the four-day meeting with a New Zealand Select side at Parlmerstoo North. "I will be pretty fired up," he said. "There's a lot for me to prove and I'll be bowling with plenty of aggression. It was a bit frustrating not to get picked in Zimbabwe. All I can do now is get stuck in and show the se-

competition for pace bowling

places is tougher than ever. But Caddick can expect at least

two opportunities to prove him-

self a serious cootender, first

against an Academy XI in to-

morrow's limited-overs match at

New Plymouth and then again

lectors that they have to play me, then leave it in their hands." Caddick took matters into his own hands when he decided to leave New Zealand and pursue a professional career in England. At that stage he had represented the Kiwis at under-19 level and been part of their Youth World Cup squad. With English-

Their Academy opponents should not be as dangerous as the Australian Institute of Sport sides that beat Mike Atherton's 1994-95 side twice over a weekend at Sydney. But England, urgently oceding to start this leg of the winter programme with a victory, dare not take any team lightly these days.

Around the resorts

SNOW REPORT

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AUSTRIA ITALYSome artificial snowFresh snow everywherVery good conditions 7,1 30 200 6.1 60 160 6.1 60 160 **SWITZERLAND** DevesLower runs hard packed KlostersCrish dry snew UNITED STATES Jackson HolePowdet/packed powder KeystonePowdet/packed powder



NBA: Foronto 80 LA Citipperé 87: Atlanta 105
Profets 103 (bit) Detruit 75 Milwaukee 96: Indana 95 Caweland 90: New Jarsey 90 San Artonio 74: New York 102 Daiba 72: Oriendo 109
Prilidelphia 98: Marrissota 95 Houston 104;
Seattle 94 Miemi 85: Sacramento 96 Denver
109. Basketball

loe Bugner, the 46-year-old former Eu-ropean, Commonwealth and British champion, has announced he is relin-quishing his Australian heavyweight title and will retire for good if he cannot arrange a bout with George Foreman.

THE DIRECT UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL (60 onters): Palestan 235 for 3 (Ahmar Saned 63, Fathan Ag) 66): England 231 for 7 (D Nash 76, I Gerborn S1). Palestan won by 2 wickests.

Football The Crystal Palace goalkeeper, Chris Day, has signed a new three-year contract with the First Division club. Rangers and Liverpool will go to the Netherlands on 26 and 27 January for Netherlands on 26 and 27 January for a four-team six-a-side tournament involving Ajax and Millan. The two day competition will take place in the Amsterdam Arena and is a 50,000 sell-out. TENTENTS SCOTTEN CAT Sepond round: TENTENTS SCOTTEN CAT Sepond round: TENTENTS A JUNEAU HIBBILAND LEAGUE Postponed: Eight Hardy.

Call Validhall. Conference: As matches postpaned.

ROBOND LEAGUE: All matches postponed.

WELSH CUP: All ties postponed.
ANON RESURANCE CONSENATION First Director.
Charlion 1 Bristol Royal's 2. Other matches post-

to Heristori Inteel.

AUTO WINDSCRIENS SHIELD Area querter-fi-nal draw Northern Sections York or Presson V Canste or Hull Bury or Manafeld v Burnhy or Sack-port: Wiresham or Crews v Biscoppol or Lincoln-Shrewshury or Wigan v Scurringe or Nota Coun-ty. Southern Sections Phymouth or Brighton v Northarmson or Linter, Bernford v Colchester, Wat-ford v Swarsee or Wycombe or Bristol Cay, Cantho or Event v Peterbourgi or Welsel, Tes to be played the week commencing 27th January 1997

FOUR-NATIONS TOURNAMENT (Kunia Lumpur): S Kores 5 Switzerland 0: Malaysia 9 Belgum 5.

ice bockey Note: NY Islander, 3 Prosburgh 5; Philipdelphia 7 Doction 3: St Louis 2 Edmonton 5; Caligny 4 Toron-to 3; Los Angeles; 8 Vancouver 2; San Jose 1 Buf-talo 1 (00).

POOIS GEVICIENCS
LITTLEWOODS: Trable chance game of two halves 49ths one prov 15-19,841.80, 23-15 price; 15-843.85, 22-318 price; 12-873 price; 14-90, Nail-drice; 249th 105 prices 12-390.45, Dividends for matches played 4 fact Trable chance game of two halves: 24pts 4 price; 122-56.85, 23-21.8, 768 price; 122-56.85, 23-21.8, 768 price; 13-90, 122-30.75 price; 120-50, 100 horizos; 13-90, 100 horizos; 13-90, 100 horizos; 14-90, time: 24pts mate: 18 press £13,274.35.
2ETTERS: Trable chances: 24pts £10,246.75,
28 £59.40. 22 £3.50, 22 £0.70. Four draw;
£25.80. Eight homes: £2.00. Four newy;
£11.00. Super 7 £825.00. First eight (no max
16, £5 or 14pts; 13 £54.65, £2 £0.70. 11
£0.85. Unely manufers £1 & 20 3 ±5 38.
VERNONS: Trable Chances 24pts £17.085.60,
23 £230.45, 22 £23.45. Super Shots £206.60.
Premier 10 (paid on 8 correct) £21.95.

SPORTING DIGEST

Io the women's event, Jen-

Rallying
DAKAAR RALLY Fith stage (445km, timbuk-too to Bao); Cars: 1.1-P Forestay (Fr) Metables 14 45ec; 3 8 Soby (Fr) Metables (47); 411; 411 Schesser (Fr) Baggy 2:99; 5 1 Nesschmatt (Gor Baggy 15:50; 6 H Mesable (Japan) Mesabers 18:45; 7 M Tragio (I) Mesam 31:53; 8 S Senar (So) Nissan 33:53; 9 1-P Strop (Fr) Mesabers 18:45; 7 M Tragio (I) Mesam 31:53; 8 S Senar (So) Nissan 33:53; 9 1-P Strop (Fr) Mesabers 15:41; 5 Mesam 32:52; 9 1-P Strop (Fr) Mesabers 15:41; 5 Mesabers 15:42; 5 Mesabers 17:55; 6 Mesabers 17:56; 6 Mesabers 17:56; 6 Mesabers 17:56; 6 Mesabers 18:46; MIN 26:56; 10 P Mesabers 18:46; MIN 26:56; 10 P Mesabers 18:40; MIN 26:56; 10 P Mesabers 18:40; 1 Mesabers 2:40; Mesabers 2:40; 1 Mesabers 2:40;

Rugby Union

ENGLARR A TRAINING SQUAD: Full-backe: C
Cetting (Gouet,) Institute Isale), I Hunter
(Northerston), Winger R Luiger Horizours), D
Rean Isale), S Brondery (Horizours), I Hunter
(Northerston), G Johnson (Army srd (Noubury), Contract N Grossbock (Maspa), M Allen
(Northerston), A Blythe (Newcosta), P Mensahi
(Horizon (L), Stand-offs M Happicon, (Glour),
Rilling (Locasier), P Creditor (Horizource, Scrum
halling A Headey (Incoptic), S Benthon (Glour),
Rilling (A Headey) (Incoptic), S Benthon (Glour),
(Notac), I Medical (Strif), V Unequi (Barn), W
Green (Maspa), I Medice (Strif), V Unequi (Barn), W
Green (Maspa), Halling (S Johnson (Sale),
Locker C Marphy (West Harrispool), S Sime
(Slour), R Felder (Glour), Fender (Delie, R West
(Potreand), D Berwookk (Coverty), Back rest
S Ojonson (Both), R Jenkins (Harrisquars), M
Corry (Bristol), P Anglessoy (Cred).

race's first practice yesterday with 1min 49.42sec. lenge in Bombay. He also incurred a zero score for this final event of the 1996

WORLD CUP SHORT-COURSE MEETING (Paling Selected Mon's 400m freestyle: 1 Xong Guoring (China) 3.49.81; 2 (Wilson IGB) 3.49.96; 3 Ding Qingsong (China) 3.51.41.

TWoodbridge (Aus) wor, A Costa (Sp) bt 3 University (CC Rep) 6-2 6-2: C Moyer (Sp) bt 6 Stafford (SA) 6-2 6-3: A O'Breen (US) bt M Taistroin (Swe) 6-4 6-1 6-4; S Stolle (Aus) bt A Votrpie (Rom) 6-2 6-1. G Ivaniseux (Droa) bt J Standhet (Sp) 6-4 0-6 6-4; T Herman (ISB) bt S Brughere (Sp) 3-6 6-3 6-3. Women's singless, first resent: J Cospinal (US) bt R Sempton (Can) 6-3 6-2. Second resente. MJ Forestelo: (US) bt N Por (US) 6-2 6-4; L Doverport (US) bt L Reymond (US) 6-3 6-4. S Sawainstiss (US) bt R R McQutten (Aus) 7-5 G-3.

IAUSI 7-5 G-3.
TASMANIAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL (Hobort) Third round: A Elwood (Aus) bt 5 DraigBrodeman (Aus) 6-2 G-4; S Wang (Tay) bt M
Grahowska (Pol) 6-1 G-3; E Callens (Bel) bt E
Lithouseau (REs) 1-6 7-6 O-2 tet; M Endo (Japon)
bt A Miler (US) 6-3 T-6. ot A Mater (US) 6-3 T-6.

New ZEALAND OPEN (Aucidams) Men's singles, second round: 14 Carten (Den) to A Baroscope, (Sp) 6-3 6-3; H Gumy (Ang bt N Kub (Sw) 6-3 6-1; H Nousk CZ Rep) fot C Marmit (US) 6-4 6-2; A Radulesou (Ger) bit T Johanson (Swejt 7-6 17-5) 6-4.

7-6 17-51 6-4.

COLORIAL CLASSIC EXHIBITION TOUTOMAMENT (Rooyong, Melbourne) Ment'e singler,
first round: P Surrocas (US) bit Al Such Geri 6-4 7-5; B Bester (Car) bit A Mechedov (Unit 1-6 6-1; M Chang (US) bit T Encard (Such 7-5 6-4; Y Kafelnikov (Rus) bit J Courter (US) 7-6 6-4.

TODAY'S FIXTURES Football PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Boton v De-by (7.0). Second Division: Stockpot v York (6.45).

AYON INSURANCE COMERNATION League Cape Cardiff City v Bristo City (2.0). JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE CUP Quarter-final first log: Whitehard v Bournemouth FC 17.30). Other sports

DARTS: Embassy World Cramponship (Frimley Green, Surrey). TABLE TEXNIS: Engish Open (Kestering

England's rugby union coach standing firm, page 23

Dalglish favourite to take over after Keegan quits Newcastle

Football

TOMMY STANIFORTH



Kevin Keegan left Tyneside in a state of shock vesterwalked out on Newcasile Unitcd - and maybe away from foot-

The sight of weeping Magpies fans standing in disbelief outside St James' Park was testament to the impact "Wor Key" has had in his five years at the club. And as they attempted to come to terms with what many considered their worst nightmare come true, the two questions on their lips were simple: "Why?" and "Who is next?

Rumours of Keegan's imminent departure had been spreading across the North-east since the collapse of Newcastle's title dream in the summer. After the final game of last season against Spurs. Keegan bad dismissed his team as "absolute garbage". publicly promising: "1 will he here next year."

Probed on Sunday about that morning's reports that he had offered to quin again after the Boxing Day defeat at Blackburn, Keegan ahruptly turned tail and left the Charlton press room, indignation written all over his face. Yet vesterday he effectively admitted that the stories had been true, that he had wanted out, "It was my decision and my decision alone," the 45year-old former Liverpool, Hamhurg, Southampton and England striker said.

I offered my resignation at the end of last season but was persuaded by the board to stay. I feel I have taken the club as far as I can and that it would be in the hest interests of all concerned if I resigned."

To be fair to Keegan, he bad always said that he would go at that stage, when he did not believe he could move things on, but the cold truth is that he has spent £60m without needing to buy a single can of silver polish with the spare change. It is that massive outlay for no perceptible reward that lies at the heart of his resignation.

Sir John Hall masked his dissuggesting that this season was really when he expected to see the championship hack at St James' for the first time since 1927, and then went out and spent another £15m on Alan

Shearer, effectively to ensure it. But Keegan, maintaining that nothing would alter his philosophy - "we'll carry on playing this way or I'll go" - did not admit until too late that be needed to find the defensive est, infectious love of the game



Adoring Newcastle fans show their colours at St James' Park after yesterday's resignation by Kevin Keegan

underpinning for his team, now fourth in the Premiership and in the last eight of the Uefa Cup.

Insiders suggest that Keegan's request for yet more money brought the first rejection from Sir John, and that the manager, growing increasingly thin-skinned to criticism, took umhrage. Other rumours indicate that Sir John had decided appointment last summer by to make a change next season, that Keegan bad got wind of it, and that he decided enough was

> Whether true or not, Keegan's demeanour grew increas-ingly dour as this season went on, the Blackburn defeat leaving him at his lowest ehh, with a furious outburst directed at his players in the privacy of the dressing-room. Those players had always appreciated his hon

and the club he had finished his playing days at hefore being tempted back as Osvaldo Ardiles' replacement in 1992.

Yesterday they were - under orders - keeping their opinions to themselves, although the sense of incredulity at the club's Maiden Castle training ground was palpable.

With Sir John out of the country it was left to his son Douglas, a club director, to give the official response. He said: "Kevin took over at the helm of a club destined for the Second Division and scaled the beights of the Premier League with a style of football never before seen at St James' Park.

"Kevin leaves the club in a far stronger position than when he arrived and the squad of players he has built up is one of the strongest in Europe.

"The club wish to place on record their sincere appreciation of all Kevin bas done for the dub over the last five years." Keegan's assistant, Terry Mc-

Dermott, and the coach, Arthur Cox, assumed temporary control at training, with the defensive coordinator Mark Lawrenson continuing in his role. At a bastily arranged news conference at St James', McDermott, describing himself as "shocked and stunned", promised: "Kevin will never be forgotten. I have known about this since Monday evening but I am still in a state of shock to be bonest.

"I hope now that the media will give him a bit of breathing space. He has had a load on his shoulders and deserves some time to he alone. Kevin Keegan is his own man.

McDermott said the players

had been "devastated" and added that Keegan had talked

him out of quitting too. "Usually in a situation like this the No 2 goes as well and it was my intention to leave but I was persuaded to stay on by Kevin. He has been a major influence on me," McDermott added. "We are so close to winning something but Kevin knows when it is time to go and I respect his views. He is the most caring person I have met. hut he is also a family man and he has his reasons for leaving.

"Should we win a tropby we will dedicate it to Kevin Keegan because of the work he has done in the past five years for the club and the town." The two caretakers will he in charge for Saturday's trip to Aston Villa. although it seems equally likely that Sir John will be looking

for a man of sufficient statute

Kenny Dalglish was the first name to be favoured by the bookies, although whether the man who succeeded Keegan into the No 7 shirt at Liverpool would want to follow him into the St James' dug-out - taking on the pressures once more is open to question. However, it is believed that he bas bad

talks with Newcastle. Keegan's old Liverpool striker partner John Toshack, who may on his way from Spain's Deportivo La Coruña, is another possibility. Other names - the likes of Roy Hodgson, Jack Charlton and Johan Cruyff seem less likely. Aston Villa's Brian Little is attracting a lot of support at the bookies, though he has ruled himself out.

news from Tyneside

Shocked reactions to the

'My gut feeling is that he probably won't get back into football again.' Terry McDermott, Keegan's No 2 and now caretaker manager.

'It's taken me three years to get used to calling her Keegan and now he goes and resigns!" Tracy Cook, mother of Keegan Emily Cook, aged three.

'He is such a good role model for: the children, I can hardly speak I am so disappointed.'

Nun Sister Josepha, head of a Newcastle primary school which has written the club into every school play for the last 20 years and Kevin Keegan into its hymns.

'How can he leave us? He is God around here - he is even bigger than God. He is the life of Newcastle.' Victoria Rickaby, aged 16.

'I'm not as shocked as I was on the day he sold Andy Cole to Manchester United.'

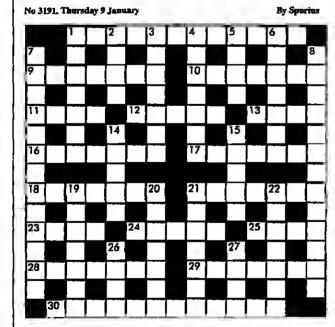
Chris Donald, creator of the famous Geordie-based Viz comic.

This is a black day for Newcastle. I hope he will reconsider and that those who have criticised him will also reconsider. He has very many more supporters than detractors." Councillor Les Russell, Lord Mayor of Newcastle.

'I'm not going to make any comment.

Alan Shearer, Keegan's möst expensive signing at £15m.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS 1 The right way to approach courses (5, 7)

rying no weapons (7)
10 Yoghurt's initially skimmed, then turned into containers

doubtful (4) 12 Make copy of translation by expert (5)

standing in Sicily (4)
16 Cunning method whereby
we get to London tube sta-

tion (7)
17 Stage where most of set pieces are no longer seen?

21 Flanders author almost about to perform effective-

end of church (4) Reverse section of template made of copper, say

Excessive amount pupil's taken into stomach (4) 28 Criticise reduction in business operation (7)
29 Offensive individual catch-

ing science graduate with end of pole (7) Transmission designed to give good rapg? (7.5) DOWN

Trade or craft, if requiring 17)
18 Leather is macho, somehow (7)

18 Leather is macho, somehow (7)

18 Leather is macho, somehow (7) of money (4)

Rather old shrub left on display at the very end (7) Teletext? (7) New Age element (4)

It's great, milling around at race meeting (7) Party exercise by which one is left standing? (7.6)
No VAT when such wine's sold? (6-7)

Spanish court's caught by sudden onslaught (5) Improve central part of Thaned if you can (5) 19 As used by poisoners (7) 20 Problem about seabird's

bone (7)
21 Card of high value (7)
22 Typically, University member's received by old king

26 Swindle involving one's money (4)
27 Sparkling beverage bottled in Castile (4) Geordies grieve the last act of 'messiah' much over the moon as upon it be said: "I'm stunned that it's

SIMON TURNBULL

"People are saying it's like the Queen dying hut I think it's worse." To the outside world it must all seem so very sad, as in pathetic, hut John Regan, secretary of the Independent Newcastle United Supporters' club, summed up the peculiar place the club occupy in the scheme of things on Tyneside. Where else would 20,000

people stand in a car park in the rain for three hours just to catch sight of someone standing on a balcony in a football It happened at St James'

Park on a Tuesday afternoon last August for Alan Shearer. It hap-pened because Newcastle United have deposited nothing of worth in their tropby cabinet since the year man was not so

for the first time. Their quest for honours has become something of a holy grail. And for four years and 11 months Kevin Keegan was the messiah who promised to deliver. The day of his first match as

manager, a 3-0 home win against Bristol City in 1992, an exiled Geordie named Brian was the first caller on Radio Five's Saturday night football phone-in show. "I was lying in bed on Thursday night." he began. "and I said to me me missus, 'I've got to go.' She says, Well, go then. I said. Not the toilet. I've got to go to Newcastle ... I live in Bournemouth you see."

The worry among the faithful gathered outside St James' Park was bow Newcastle could carry on without him. Mark Mag, spoke for the masses when Kevin.

happened, especially in the middle of the season.

Sympathy for Keegan was everywhere. "The manager's job has never been more difficult. the Tottenbam manager, Gerry Francis, said. "There is too much pressure on people

Ray Wilkins, the former England midfielder, was shocked and sad "because football needs people like Kevin Keegan.

"He is very emotional and passionate. That's the way be is and that's the way he wants to see his teams to play. He bas high principles and has stuck to

Brendan Foster, the former Olympic 10,000 metres bronze medallist and Newcastle fan, said: "Nobody's ever done more for Newcastle United than Kevin Keegan. Thank you

Resignation rocks flotation

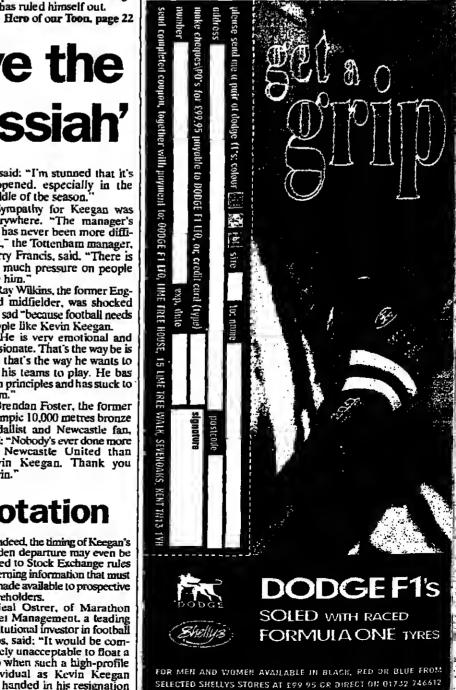
PATRICK TOOHER

Newcastle United are pressing ahead with plans for a stock market flotation before Easter, despite Kevin Keegan's shock resignation and the damaging impact his departure is hound to have on sentiment among potential investors.

This doesn't affect the flotation in the slightest," insisted a spokesman for the club. Analysts expect Newcastle to be valued at up to £200m, with the

money from the flotation helpsudden departure may even be linked to Stock Exchange rules ing to pay for a new stadium.
The decision by Keegan to quit only highlights the risks of governing information that must investing in football clubs. In be made available to prospective particular, it illustrates bow deshareholders. pendent even top teams are on

Neal Ostrer, of Marathon Asset Management, a teading institutional investor in football one or two inspirational figures. "This won't do the flotation much good," Keith Harris, of inclubs, said: "It would be comvestment bank HSBC James pletely unacceptable to float a Capel, said. "If Alex Ferguson club when such a high-profile were to resign as manager of Manchester United, its share individual as Kevin Keegan had handed in his resignation price would take a whacking and the prospectus failed to



OR SIMPLY COMPLETE AND RETURN THE COUPON

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